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A

V O Y A G E

TO THE

EAST-INDIES AND CHINA.



A
V O Y A G E
TO THE
EAST-INDIES AND CHINA;
PERFORMED
BY ORDER OF LEWIS XV.

Between the Years 1774 and 1781.

CONTAINING
A DESCRIPTION OF THE MANNERS, RELIGION, APPTS,
AND SCIENCES, OF THE INDIANS, CHINESE,
PEGOUINS, AND OF THE ISLANDERS OF MADAGASCAR;
ALSO
OBSERVATIONS ON THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, THE ISLES
OF FRANCE AND BOURBON, THE MALDIVIAS,
CEYLON, MALACCA, THE PHILLIP-
PINES, AND MOLUCCAS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF
MONSIEUR SONNERAT,
Commissary of the Marine, &c. &c.

By FRANCIS MAGNUS.

VOLUME THE THIRD.

CALCUTTA:
FROM THE PRESS OF JOSEPH COOPER.
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VOLUME THE THIRD.

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ERRATA TO VOLUME THE FIRST.

PAGE LINE

31	7	For <i>Maye</i> read <i>Devegui</i> ,
33	23	For <i>bebauchery</i> read <i>debauchery</i> ,
44	21	For <i>after</i> of read <i>the</i> ,
52	6	For <i>trouble</i> read <i>difficulty</i> ,
100	5	For <i>of in</i> read <i>in</i> ,
113	13	For <i>nourish</i> read <i>maintain</i> ,
126	4	For <i>to buy</i> read <i>of buying</i> ,
147	11	For <i>is absolutely arbitrary</i> read <i>though absolutely arbitrary</i> , <i>is celebrated at pleasure</i> ,
156	8	For <i>give</i> read <i>furnish</i> ,
157	5	For <i>avocations</i> read <i>evocations</i> ,
203	13	For <i>that</i> read <i>the Cosmogony</i> ,
261	11	For <i>this</i> read <i>sueh</i> .

ERRATA TO VOLUME THE SECOND.

PAGE LINE

5	21	For <i>are here</i> read <i>are</i> ,
60	6	For <i>Troulers</i> read <i>Troulers</i> ,
61	3	For <i>ditto</i> read <i>ditto</i> ,
114	5	For <i>this strong</i> read <i>the strong</i> ,
114	10	For <i>this abode</i> read <i>the abode</i> ,
118	15	For <i>immoile</i> read <i>immolate</i> ,
24	19	For <i>distinguist</i> read <i>distinguish</i> ,
164	15	For <i>pm tree</i> read <i>palm tree</i> .

ERRATA TO VOLUME THE THIRD.

PAGE LINE

2	16	For <i>and</i> read <i>when</i> ,
3 (Note)		For <i>G. anats</i> read <i>Garnets</i> ,
7	17	For <i>bave</i> <i>subjected</i> read <i>subject</i> ,
30	5	For <i>given</i> read <i>sent</i> ,
32	11	For <i>bring</i> read <i>send</i> ,
14	15	For <i>are</i> read <i>have been</i> ,
20	19	For <i>ebty</i> read <i>tney</i> ,
23	21	For <i>on</i> read <i>to</i> ,
73	13	For <i>to their</i> read <i>to those in their</i> ,
94	3	For <i>is one</i> read <i>is esteemed one</i> ,
95	3	For <i>but is</i> read <i>but it is</i> ,
96	11	For <i>there also</i> read <i>there are also</i> ,
124	2	For <i>mixed some</i> read <i>mixed with some</i> .

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V O Y A G E

TO THE

EAST-INDIES AND CHINA.

BOOK. IV.

C H A P. II.

OF PEGU.

WHEN the Portuguese established themselves in the country of Pegu, they found it divided into two kingdoms. The Abaffys, known to the Europeans by the name of Pegouins, inhabited the kingdom of Pegu; and the Barmans that of Ava. These nations, governed by rival powers, did not long preserve a good understanding. The King of Ava, jealous of the commerce of his neighbours,

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assembled

assembled a numerous army in 1685, and declared war against them. Being conqueror, he destroyed their king with all his family, and wanted to annihilate even the name of Pegu. The two states, reunited under his dominion, were now only one kingdom, which extends on the north to China; the east, is bounded by Tonquin, Quinam, and Cochin China; the south by the kingdom of Siam; and the west, in part, by the sea; and going upwards, it terminates at Chittigong, which borders upon Bengal.

In 1735, the conquered Peguins shook off the yoke, and revenged the blood of their ancient masters; and as a just return they massacred the tyrant with all his family; and no legitimate prince remaining, they elected a new king. By the resolution of this prince, a calm soon succeeded: and when by his courage, and the punishment of the seditious, he had established his power, he employed himself in restoring his kingdom to its former splendor, and revived its commerce. The

Europeans

Europeans were attracted; and the English, taking advantage of this revolution, established several factories, such as those on the great and little Negrais, at Bacim, and on the western point of the coast of Pegu. At the same period, the Zelanders, driven out of Banquibazard, by Allavirdy Khan, nabob of Bengal, took shelter in Pegu, where they wanted to establish themselves by force of arms; but, too feeble for the execution of such an enterprise, they were all massacred.

The French availed themselves of the good dispositions of this prince, and turned them to much better account. Mr. Dupleix, Governor-General in India, sent an ambassador to him with considerable presents, in the year 1751; and the French obtained of the king of Pegu permission to settle themselves at Siriam *, where they would still have remained but for the following revolution.

* A city of Pegu, where the Europeans formerly carried on their commerce. Though this city is now no more, the river still preserves the name of Siriam, a name which it has also given to the beautiful Siriam Granats, so improperly called Syrien.

The standard of revolt, after twenty years peace, was raised by a simple countryman, of Barman origin, and whose name was Alompra. Followed by some husbandmen, of whom he was the chief, he was resolved to become the deliverer of his nation, and free it from the yoke of the Pegouins. These rebels, armed only with a club, had some little success on their first attempt. The king of Pegu, despising such an enemy, made but a feeble opposition; but, in the sequel, he experienced that there is no enemy who is not dangerous. Alompra's party grew more formidable every day, and he soon saw himself at the head of twenty thousand Barmans, by whose assistance he seized on the capital of the kingdom, where he found arms and stores. This conquest increasing his ambition, he caused himself to be proclaimed king; went down the river with surprising rapidity, and encamped two leagues from Siam, on the very spot where he laid the foundation of the city of Rangon, which is

since

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since become the staple of commerce. He besieged Siriam, which he razed, in order to punish the inhabitants for having resisted his attempt during the space of eighteen months.

Alompra and the French had agreed upon a neutrality, which, however, was not adhered to by the latter. The king of Pegu had sent for assistance from Pondicherry : they there debated a long time on the subject ; but at last, in July 1756, some troops and ammunition were sent him in two vessels, named le Diligent, and la Galathée. Though the last ship arrived long before the other, she could not anchor at Siriam till two days after the reduction of that city, and the captain fell into a snare which Alompra had laid for him. This conqueror, exasperated at the French, seized their vessel, beheaded all the officers, as well as the agent of the French nation, and imprisoned the soldiers and sailors.

Le Diligent being obliged to put in at the Nicobars, did not arrive till six weeks after la Galathée ; but the Captain, more prudent than

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than the other, entered the river with precaution, and when he heard of the French being massacred, returned to Pondicherry.

Alompra employed the soldiers and ammunition taken in la Galathée to great advantage. After having promised a reward to the former, he blocked up the king of Pegu in his capital. The king held out against the besieger till the month of May, 1757, when he found himself obliged to surrender. The conqueror, to get rid of his rival, made use of the following stratagem. It was recorded in their annals, that the person who should put a crown on the pagoda of Rangon, should overcome all his enemies, and be acknowledged for the most powerful king. He caused a crown of gold to be made, enriched with diamonds and rubies, weighing as much as himself, his wife and children, and after having placed it on the cone of the pagoda, in presence of the king his prisoner, he asked him if he would acknowledge his superiority : when the other replying in the negative, he was beheaded.

During

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During these troubles, the English fortified themselves in their settlements of Bacim and the Negrais; as they were the only Europeans that had the prudence to build forts. The new king became suspicious of them; he attacked them several times at the head of his Barmans, but was always repulsed. However, at last, by employing the French, he drove them entirely out of the kingdom.

That depopulation and wretchedness are inevitable consequences of war, is well known; and when Alompra would have enjoyed the fruit of his labours, he was afflicted to find he reigned over ruins alone. He saw no other remedy than the conquest of Siam, and to disperse through his own territories the men that in this conquest he might have subjected to him. In consequence of such resolution, he set out, attended by forty thousand men, and in his route seized upon Tavay, Tennasle-rin, and Merqui. He soon penetrated as far as Siam, which he besieged, and would doubtless have taken it, if a dysentery, the effect of fatigue

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tigue, during so long and so toilsome a siege, had not carried him off, in September 1760, in the fiftieth year of his age.

His sons, who had followed him in his expedition, caused his body to be embalmed and sent to Pegu, with all the pomp due to his memory. The eldest, whose name was Kandropa, was declared his successor. The friend of peace, he governed his kingdom with wisdom; but after a peaceable reign of five years he died, without leaving any heirs, and the crown passed to Zekinmedou, his brother.

Zekinmedou, following the steps of Alompra, renewed the war with the Siamese, and was so fortunate as to finish with glory what his father had commenced with courage. Siam was conquered, and the king and his family made prisoners. This unfortunate prince, stripped of his kingdoms, presents to this day at Ava the most striking example of the vicissitudes of fortune; those hands, accustomed to hold a sceptre, have been forced to inure themselves to the vilest tasks. Deprived

priv'd of all his riches, and reduced to misery in the extreme. The conqueror seems only to have spared his life, that he might the more ardently make him wish for his death.

After having dispersed many thousand Siamese prisoners, in all parts of his kingdom, Zekinmedou subdued the Cassayans, and declared war against the Chinese. This populous nation found no difficulty in opposing him with an army of an hundred thousand men: Zekinmedou's troops were no more than thirty-thousand, but he attacked them with such fury, that they were soon routed, and sixty thousand prisoners taken, who were sent to cultivate the land in the environs of Ava.

It was nearly at this time, that is to say, in the year 1769, that the French East India Company asked his permission to re-establish their commerce in Pegue. The prince received the deputy who was sent, with great distinction—gave him the most singular marks of his esteem for the French nation, and sent him back to the council of Pondicherry,

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charged with a letter addressed to them, in the following terms :

" I, the Emperor of Ava, King of Kings,
" omnipotent, inform you, that I have receiv-
" ed the letter given to me by your ambassa-
" dor, Mr. Feraud, with the presents, consist-
" ing of one piece of red velvet, one of black
" velvet, a third of yellow velvet, five pieces
" of gold and silver stuffs, five parcels of
" gold and five of silver lace, eight hundred
" and twenty-four small knives, a double
" barrelled gun, inlaid with gold, five hun-
" dred and twenty-five muskets, two hundred
" and eighty-six cannon balls, eighteen hun-
" dred musket balls, one hundred grenades,
" a cask of flints, and ten barrels of gun-pow-
" der. I have also received the letter which
" your ambassador sent, and which has been
" interpreted by Milard, my slave *. I have
" received

* Mr. Milard went to Pegu, on board the Galathée, as a volunteer; he had the good fortune to escape the general massacre of the French, and to gain the king's friendship, who appointed him grand master of the artillery, and captain of his

“ received your ambassador in my golden
“ palace. With respect to the requests you
“ make, I cannot grant you the island of Mo-
“ lucca, because it is a suspicious place: neither
“ will I give up the five Frenchmen. You also
“ mention their pay, and you ask for a person
“ to settle their account: all this I leave to
“ the disposal of Milard. I exempt you from
“ all duties, and grant you a free trade. I al-
“ so cede to you that place to the south of
“ Rangon, called Mangthu; the extent of the
“ ground along the bank of the river is 500
“ Thas *, and the breadth of two hundred,
“ which the governor of Rangon will cause to
“ be measured. All the French vessels that an-
“ chor in the port of the French settlement,
“ shall be obliged to render an account of their
“ merchandize and other effects to the governor

his guards. On several occasions he was very serviceable to the French, particularly to Mr. Gouyon, commander of the Castris, who happened to be at Pegu during the disturbances in 1775, when the French were suspected of favouring the rebels. Milard died in 1778.

* A Thas is ten feet and a half.

" of Rangon, in order to see what presents I
 " should exact, to indemnify myself for the du-
 " ties. No warlike ammunition is to be sold by
 " you in my dominions, without my license.
 " I have sent in consequence my orders to the
 " governor of Rangon. When any French
 " vessels arrive, he will take care to go on
 " board, and as soon as the goods are in the
 " warehouse, he will put the chap on them.
 " All French ships which anchor in the
 " French settlement, shall be obliged to bring
 " their rudders on shore.
 " I send you your ambassador, with the
 " concessions I have made him.

" Given the 12th of the Moon,

" Of the month Kchong, 1132."

The French East India Company obtained at that time a considerable spot of ground at Rangon, with the license of building warehouses and hoisting the French colours, and are the only nation to whom the king of Pegu has yet granted that privilege, which the English, Dutch and Armenians were never able

to obtain. But the Company, not knowing how to profit by these advantages, the French who at present trade to this country are no longer distinguished from other nations ; the sovereign even esteems them as slaves the moment they set foot on his territories.

The Siamese remained but a short time subject to the laws of the Barmans : those who, to avoid slavery, retired to the woods, assembled, elected a king of Chinese extraction, and marching under his standard, drove the Pegouins and Barmans out of the kingdom of Siam. The king of Ava wanted, a second time, to subdue them, and for that purpose assembled numerous troops of Pegouins and Barmans, in the year 1775. The Pegouins, whose force was superior, revolted, massacred the greatest part of the Barmans, and directed their arms against Rangon ; but having no officers to lead them on, the enterprize miscarried without causing any revolution.

Zekinmedou established tranquility in his kingdom, and died the following year. According

cording to the will of Alompra, his brothers should successively have mounted the throne ; but, some time before his death, Zekinmedou caused his eldest son to be acknowledged king, who accordingly succeeded to the diadem, at the age of twenty-two. To avoid any disputes with his uncles, who were five in number, he massacred them all, as well as his own brothers, and the great men who were their adherents. By these abominable murders, he this day finds himself peaceable possessor of a sceptre, polluted with blood, and tarnished by the impure hands which hold it.

The Pegouins and Barmans are not divided into casts or tribes. They are all of the same religion, which, in its principle, seems to be that of the Bramins : the doctrine of the metempsychosis is the foundation ; but so much disfigured at this day, that they feed on all sorts of animals, even on beef, provided they are not the slaughterers.

They have seven principal deities ; the first five are incarnated, and have already lived upon

on earth, to teach men the knowledge of virtue.

The other two are, sometime or other, to revive the happy times of the first ages. However, they adore one God alone, whom they call Godeman ; he is the last of the five that have been incarnated, and seems to be the same as Vichenou.

The precise time of his terrestrial life is not told in the sacred volumes. They only say that when dying, he promised to disperse his infinite grace during six thousand years on those who invoked him. To obtain his favour, the Pegouins and Barmans regularly visit his pagoda once a week ; and on festival days they chant his praises, burn tapers before his image, and offer him meats, fish, vegetables, and boiled rice. These offerings become the prey of dogs and other animals, who have free ingress and egress of the pagoda.

Their temples are decently adorned, and not filled with obscene figures, like those of the inhabitants of the Coromandel coast, Ma-

labar,

labar, and Bengal. The pagoda of Kelkel, near Siam, is held in a particular veneration by the Pegouins, while the Barmans are equally attached to that of Digon, near Rangoon. The construction of the latter is very singular; it terminates in a cone, and has neither door nor window. The princes, nobles, and people throw the immense riches they bring for offerings, through a hole made at the top, over which is seen the crown of gold, placed there by Alompra. This should be one of the richest treasuries in the world, if the Barmans have not found the method of pilaging the pagoda, by some subterraneous passage.

When they build a pagoda, a barbarous custom exists of flinging the first people who pass by into the foundation. This shocking ceremony is, however, very frequent, as they consecrate almost all their wealth to building such edifices, which is esteemed a very meritorious work; as well as to found Baos's, which are a kind of convent. It is also

also equally meritorious to contribute to the funerals of their Talapoins, whom they burn with great pomp.

Such magnificence in the obsequies of their Priests, shows in what veneration they are held. They are called Ponguis, and are less informed than the Brainins. Although they are called Talapoins, they have no relation to the Priests of Tibet, and are ignorant of the great Lama, though some authors have asserted to the contrary.

The sovereign is honoured in a manner that approaches to adoration. By a common custom in the East, those who come into his presence, prostrate themselves before him, their hands joined, their feet naked, flung behind them; and gathered back close to their thighs; even the great men are obliged to appear in this humiliating posture, whenever they approach him.

In all ceremonies he sits on a high throne, to show how much he is above all the Princes who compose his court. When he goes out, they

dare not remain behind in the city, and great care is taken to shut the gates on such occasions.

Lastly, he believes his power great enough to command all the kings of the earth ; so that after dinner it is proclaimed, by the sound of a trumpet, that the omnipotent king of kings has dined, and that all other kings may now have liberty to do the same. He does not believe that any sovereign possesses a territory equally beautiful as his own, and that it is not to be surpassed by any nation : even the people run into this error, as they term all strangers men of wood, and pardon every thing contrary to their customs ; imputing it to a natural stupidity, and want of education.

The Emperor has the power of life and death over all his subjects, whom he esteems as slaves. Particulars continually feel the weight of this servitude, which publickly exposes them to want. Whoever is in possession of wealth, gives pensions for the sustenance of the Talapoins, or build pagodas :—if he
keeps

keeps his money, the governor finds some cause of complaint against him, and he is plundered :—if he conceals his property, and is discovered, his life pays the forfeit, as they suspect he reserves it to promote or form intrigues.

Yet the Pegouin loves his country : he is polite, agreeable, and affable; but inclined to suspicion and wrangling. The laws have not found a better check than to attack their purse ; all abuses have been foreseen, and taxed at a considerable fine*, so that you are exempt from

* Under the Roman Emperors, abuses were taxed, and commuted. To expose the law to ridicule, a patrician, whenever he went out, was always attended by slaves carrying money. He struck people as he passed along, and paid the tax. Juvenal, with as much reason as energy, said, *Omnia Romæ cum pretio.* Modern Rome, in this respect, has been more corrupt than the ancient. It is well known, that under the second race of our kings, all crimes were taxed at the Roman chancery, not even excepting the most atrocious : these taxes are noted, as proper to mark the spirit of the age, by L'Abbé Velli, in his History of France. In the laws of Burgundy, Lombardy, the Salic, and even in the Capitularies of Charlemagne, all crimes and abuses were taxed.

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from all prosecution, provided the tax is paid, with the judge's and clerk's fees. Assassination is, however, excepted; but in this, as in other countries, the lower class are only punished, great men escape, and may, with impunity, be criminal. In a court of justice, the plaintiff is not always sure of his cause. If proofs fail, the parties are plunged into water; he who first rises loses his process; but he may free himself by becoming a slave of the Emperor's body-guard, to whom he gives all his property: by means of this bequest, his adversary has no hold on him.

The Pegouins are very temperate; almost their whole nourishment consisting of vegetables, or rotten fish, which they call Prox, and which serves them for spice, in seasoning their curries. Like other people of the East, they are lascivious. Marriages may be dissolved,

At this day crimes are commuted in Turkey; even murder and assassination. This horrible venality of commutation for unpardonable crimes, exists under other names in most nations in Europe.

the

the law gives the divorce; but the party who applies for it can carry nothing out of the house, but what they have on their body. Plurality of women, so common throughout all the East, is only tolerated in Pegu, and even forbid by their religion. There are, notwithstanding, convents of public women, where every person is free to go for their money. Women convicted of adultery are obliged to go into these houses, and prostitute themselves. According to the law, men guilty of this crime should be punished with death, but they evade it by paying.

The wives of the common people go almost naked; they are permitted to wear nothing but a kind of petticoat, which reaches no lower than the knee. Gathered behind, it is not a sufficient covering before, so that when a woman walks, you may see the top of her thigh. The wives of great men wear them shorter or longer, according to their rank.

They commonly burn the dead: but great men, and the Talapoins famous for science, are previously

viously embalmed, and put into a leaden coffin. Six months often elapses after their death, before they are carried to the funeral pile.

Voyages to Pegu are not now so lucrative as they were formerly. To make a profit, merchant vessels are obliged to stop at Acheen, where they carry muskets, powder, and small cannon, coarse cloths, gold thread, lace and broad cloth. They receive in exchange, gum, benjamin, camphire and gold, on which there is now only four per cent profit; little is gained on the other articles. And the whole gain amounts to no more than 20 or 25 per cent. The king having the whole commerce to himself, obliges the merchant to sell and purchase at whatever price his agent fixes. But when any goods can be purloined from his Cupidity, they are sold to his oppressed subjects at considerable profit.

The French, by their compliant manners, had gained the confidence of the Acheeners in preference to the English; but some expeditions which the French made against them, especially

especially those of the ships La Paix, in 1770, and of the Etoile at Borneo, in 1775, have totally alienated this distinction. They always remind them of it when they arrive there, and nothing can make them forget it. By this obstacle, all commerce they wish to carry on with this nation is at an end, as they are a cowardly people, and consequently treacherous and revengeful. When a vessel anchors in the port, one of the ship's officers must pay his court to the king, who must carry also some presents, as he is never approached with empty hands. Formerly the shoes were to be taken off before they entered his apartment; but the ceremony is now dispensed with, provided a pair of red cloth shoes is worn over them.

The vessels which go to Pegu, take part of their cargo at Acheen, in Arreki, which must be differently prepared to those which are carried on the Coromandel coast; this detains them near four months, and they complete their cargo with cocoas, on the Nicobar Islands. These two articles delivered at Pegu, always yield a profit of 35 or 40 per cent.

The

The Japanese customs are in use at Pegu. As soon as a vessel anchors before Rangoon, the governor immediately sends his orders for the guns and rudder to be sent on shore. A faithful account is obliged to be given of the ship's crew, the arms offensive and defensive, the number of bales of goods, and commonly of every thing else on board. They separate what is for the defence and use of the ship, from what is to be disposed of, and after this declaration, the governor orders a warehouse, where every thing must be deposited.

Till this last article is completely finished, there is no communication. After all is done, the governor goes on board the vessel with a numerous retinue, who are benefited by the entertainment which is obliged to be given him; and if he finds any thing on board which has not been reported, even if it was money, he confiscates it. An officer can keep no more than twenty rupees, for the money must be stored as well as the goods; however with this difference, that it pays no duty, and is carefully

fully returned. The visit finished, the governor receives the usual presents, which consist of China, plate, sugar, and boxes of tea. The operations of commerce are often retarded by these preliminaries, as no workman can be procured, if he is ever so much wanted, till they are all entirely fulfilled.

A second visit is paid to all the goods deposited in the magazine. The bales are open for payment of the duties; those of the king consist of ten per cent in kind, as they count out nine pieces, and the tenth is the king's: the clerks, warehouse-keepers, and the person who chaps the goods, have a duty of two and a half per cent. One of the chiefs has also the right of taking five pieces, but not goods of value, as cloths and other high priced merchandize. After all these examinations, the vessel has permission to be loaded.

The teak-wood which they bring from Pegu is excellent for building and furniture. It never rots in the water, so that it is not extraordinary to see vessels, built at Pegu, in use an hundred

years. The country is not rich within itself. There are gold, silver, and copper-mines to be found, but they have never been opened. Iron, of a softer nature than ours, is to be found pure, in a mass, from fifteen to twenty pounds fit for use. Rubies, though common, bear however some price, but must be smuggled out of the kingdom; which if detected would cost immense sums, probably imprisonment, and even the confiscation of the vessel.

There are also saphires, emeralds, topazes, and aqua marinas to be met with. The Pegouins call these stones fine rubies, and distinguish them by the appellation of blue, green, yellow rubies, &c.

Brimstone and pitch are common and cheap. The land is fruitful, but cultivated only for rice. They sow a particular kind, much esteemed on the coast. It is called plot, and dissolves into a jelly on being boiled.

There are no linen or silk manufactures in Pegu. They only make some cotton stuffs for their own consumption. Their other productions

ductions are indigo, casia, ivory, the oils of fish, wood and potters earth. Their horses are remarkably handsome; the elephants and buffalos, with which this country abounds, are very large, as well as the sheep and cattle. The most lucrative branch of commerce is saltpetre, which is as common as in Bengal; but this article is particularly prohibited, and the king would never permit of its being exported.

A re-establishment at Pegu would be very advantageous to the commerce of France; but this grant depends on the success their arms may have on the coast of India, and requires peace to be established among the European powers.

C H A P. III.

OF THE ISLAND
MADAGASCAR.

THE extent of this country, and variety of Cantons in the Isle of Madagascar, requires a much longer residence than I made, to give a general description of it. The immense numbers of governments, and continual wars in this country, are also another bar to the travels and examination of an observer. I shall therefore only describe what I could see and learn myself.

Our

Our success has not hitherto been fortunate in this island. We have often deserted, and we have often been driven from our factories: it is even doubtful whether we can make a solid establishment, as the inhabitants must be treated with gentleness. Will the French never accustom themselves to regard men of a black hue as human beings? Before the Madagascars had any commerce with Europeans, they were supposed to have lived in that happy ignorance of vice attributed to the first ages. But they soon followed the example of a nation, who, according to them, descended from the sun to give them laws: we, however, have not taught them our imperfections with impunity. Authors of their depravation, we became their first victims. From us they learned robbery and murder, and soon made their masters sensible of their effects.

We are only acquainted with the eastern side of Madagascar; the best harbours in this part are Fort Dauphin, Tatnatave, Foule-point, Mary's Point, and Point Choiseuil, in

*and add to enable us to find the
best*

the bay of Antongil. The western part is little frequented or known, on account of the cruelty of the inhabitants.

There are three distinct race of men in Madagascar; the first is very black, with short frizzled hair; and seem to be the only original race in the island.—The second race inhabit some of the interior provinces, are tawney, and have long hair they are called Malambous, and are continually at war with the first race; they are less esteemed in the isle of France than the others, as they are not so able to work, and are in general very lazy; their persons bear a strong resemblance to those of the Malays. The third race reside in the environs of Fort Dauphin, and in parts of the western coast; they are descended from some ancient Arabs, who were shipwrecked and settled afterwards on the island. This race still retain the resemblance and some customs of their ancestors, of whom, however, they have no knowledge. They only tell you that they are not originally inhabitants of the country, but esteem themselves children of the sea,

which

which they say cast their ancestors on this island. The Madagascar language is written in Arabian characters, on a bad kind of paper, which they manufacture themselves, from the pounded bark of a tree called Foutache; they also write on the leaves of the Ravenala, and then make use of a bodkin in the Indian manner; the letters when first marked on the leaf, are not easily perceived; but appear very black as they dry. These men are esteemed learned by the inhabitants on this coast, who apply to them on any disturbances, when they want to make sacrifices, or to know future events. They have assumed the exclusive right of killing animals. A Madagascar would commit a great crime to kill a fowl in their territories; and when a stranger travels that way, and chuses to eat poultry, he sends for an inhabitant to cut the bird's throat. Those who eat pork lose this prerogative, and their detestation of these animals is so great, that they will not even suffer them to pass through their village.

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It is asserted, that the interior part of the island contains a nation who are dwarfs, and white; and live under ground, much after the manner of the Hottentots. They are represented as very industrious, turning day into night, and night into day, and sacrificing all those who chance to stray into their territories. I dare not, however, affirm that such people do really exist; yet I saw at fort Dauphin a girl thirty years of age, who was said to be of this nation; at least she was brought as such to Mr. de Modaye. She was tolerably fair, and only three feet and a half high; but, doubtless, this was a particular phenomenon, for if such a nation really existed, we should have seen some of them at our factories.

The dress of the Madagascars is only a Pagne of three ells in length, which they throw over their shoulders, the two ends falling down before. The chiefs wear them of silk, or cotton, adorned at the end with fringes and glass beads, or bits of tin. The head is covered with a cap made of bulrushes.

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The women girt their waist with a blue cloth, of two yards in length, which has the appearance of a petticoat; over it they always wear white linen, large or small, according to their size. They have also a kind of half shift, of blue cloth, that reaches no lower than the breast, adorned before with several plates of gold, which serve for clasps. They wear ear-rings and bracelets of gold or glass beads on their arms, and round their necks gold or silver chains, fabricated in the country.

Their food at Foul Point is rice, which they eat with fish, or with a fowl cut to pieces, and boiled. Some leaves of Ravensara and sea-water are put into the broth, as they are ignorant of salt. In the interior parts of the island, they use the leaf of a tree known to us by the name of the salt tree.

Plantain leaves are their plates and table-cloth. The rice is placed on one side, and the meat on the other. In order to eat the rice, they use a bit of plantain leaf doubled

in the shape of a small horn, pouring some soup on the rice. After meals they drink nothing but water which has been boiled in the pot where the rice was prepared, at the bottom of which a thick crust is formed. This precaution is very useful in a country where the water is generally bad and brackish.

Their houses consist of a single apartment only, in which all the family reside; the wood work is nothing but large stakes drove into the ground. The walls are made with the sides of Ravenala leaves, joined together and tied to laths of Bamboo; the inside hung with mats; the roof covered with Ravenala leaves, the inside of which being placed close to each other, forms a substantial covering; the floor is commonly raised one or two feet, and made of strong Bamboo hurdles, covered over with mats, excepting one corner of the apartment, where the kitchen chimney is placed. They constantly burn fires, even in the night time, for the sake of their health.

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The chiefs' houses are not better ornamented; the only distinction they have, is their being surrounded by a palisade, with a mast raised higher than the building, and in front of the house; on which is hung the horns of all the oxen they have sacrificed at their public festivals.

All their household good; are some earthen pots for the kitchen, some Bamboos or Calabashes to draw water, and small baskets where they keep their linen.

Before they were acquainted with the Europeans, their arms were the Sagay, a kind of javelin, five or six feet long, bound at each end with iron, which they dart with great dexterity; but since our commerce with them, they use pistols, sabres and muskets.

The progress of the arts is but slender. In Madagascar, the women in the south part of the island make their Pagnes of silk and cotton; and those in the north part with leaves of Raphix. Their looms are simple, being composed only of four pieces of wood

stuck in the ground. Goldsmiths and blacksmiths are also to be met with, who make chains and other works, but without polishing them. The bellows for the forge is composed of the hollow trunks of two trees tied together. In the bottom there are two iron funnels, and in the inside of each trunk a sucker, furnished with Raphia, which supplies the place of tow. The apprentice, whose business it is to use this machine, alternately sinks one of the suckers, while he raises the other. They have made all the separate parts of a gun, but have not been able to bore the barrel.

Agriculture is in a similar state with the other arts; neither gardens or fruit trees are to be seen. The inhabitants of the north cultivate nothing but rice, which is their chief food; and as this plant does not succeed in the southern part of the island, the inhabitants there supply the want of rice by millet. They do not till the ground, but after having burnt the grass on the marshes, they sow their rice,

at

at the commencement of the rains. In many places they are not even at the trouble of sowing it, but leave some blades of grass on the stalk; from which the grain falls, and again springs up.

Physicians are in great esteem; all their science consists in the knowledge of some aromatic plants, astringent and purgative, of which they make a mixture, for drinking, or for bathing; physicians, however, are never consulted but in important cases, when all the general and common remedies have been applied. These remedies consist of a large kind of pea, pounded in a mortar with a little lime, of which a plaster is made, and immediately applied to the part affected. If the disease becomes serious, they put a branch of any tree with the leaves on it over the door, and shut the door with a string that forms a triangle, by means of a stick put into the ground: by this sign the friends are given to understand that their visits are dispensed

dispensed with, and that the door is only open to the physicians, and to those persons whose services are necessary to the sick person.

The physician makes poultices for the patient, and prescribes a regimen. Sometimes they have recourse to bleeding, but never use that expedient except in the last extremity. If they are obliged to perform this operation, they bleed all parts of the body, and particularly that part which is the seat of the disorder. They then apply the biggest part of a large ox's horn to his side; at the other extremity there is a small hole bored, which serves the patient to suck with his mouth, in order to draw the blood on that part: he then takes a bad knife, whose point is bent, makes several scarifications, and again applies the horn. If the disorder increases, sacrifices are made, and oxen immolated and distributed to the neighbours, after the portions of the good and bad Deity are set apart: the horns are exposed on a pole before the door of the house. If the sick man dies, and is wealthy, they renew

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the sacrifice, which are continued till the body is interred, an interval of course of many days. During the night, they fire guns before the house, in order to drive away the evil spirits. They then put the deceased, dressed in his best clothes, on a bier, bury him without the town, and erect a hut over the spot where he was interred; a pole is raised before the hut, on which are hung all the horns of the cattle sacrificed at his death. When a person of family dies, whose residence is distant from the burying place, (as generally all the great families have particular spots set apart for that purpose) after the sacrifices they carry him with great pomp to his relations, and the same ceremonies are renewed for many days; that is, till the body is deposited in the tomb of their ancestors.

The Madagascans, properly speaking, have no religion. They, however, acknowledge two principles, one good and one evil: the first they call Janhar, which means great and omnipotent God. No temples are erected to him,

him, neither do they represent him under any sensible form, or address prayers to him, because he is good; but they offer to him sacrifices. The evil spirit is called Angat, for whom they always reserve a part of the victims sacrificed to Janhar. They believe, that after death men become evil spirits, who sometimes appear and speak to them in dreams. The tenet of the Metempsychosis is unknown to them, and yet they believe, according to the character of the person, that certain souls pass into the body of an animal, or of a plant; and because serpents were discovered on the tomb of a cruel and bloody chieftain, who, in order to discover the mysteries of generation, had caused several women with child to be opened: they believed that his soul had passed into the body of these reptiles. At the bay of Antongil they reverence a Badamier, who is said to have come out of the ashes of a benevolent chief.

Some Madagascans, without having the least idea of Mahomet, call themselves Musulmen,

fulmen because they have a commerce with the Arabians who come to take away the money the French carry every year to purchase slaves, bullocks, and two or three millions weight of rice. To Mahometism they add the most extravagant superstitions; they are circumcised from their infancy. This ceremony is performed every third year, and is attended with a great festival, at which all the children in the neighbourhood are assembled for mutilation. The chief kills several bullocks, and furnishes the Tok, a kind of beverage, as long as the provisions last; the festival is brilliant, but when there is nothing more to drink, each person returns home.

Similar to almost all other barbarous nations, the Madagascars esteem eclipses as prognostics of some great evil; but they are comforted by the idea that the mischief will only affect people of superior rank.

At the birth of children they consult the Omens; and if they are not favourable, the child

child is exposed in the woods to the mercy of the wild beasts.

We might imagine these people adore the sea, by the ceremony they perform when they undertake a voyage along the coast; it is a kind of benediction they give the boat. The pilot takes sea water in a piece of Ravenala leaf, and then addresses prayers to the element on which he is going; he intreats it not to hurt his vessel, and on the contrary that it may avoid all shoals and quickly return home laden with slaves. He then goes into the water, makes the tour round his boat, and sprinkles it on every part. After this operation he returns on shore and makes a hole in the earth, in order to deposit the Ravenala leaf. His companions who are to go the voyage with him, sit all round him, address prayers to the sea, then put their boat off, and embark.

There are a kind of convulsionaries at Madagascar, who are esteemed sorcerers; they become furious and appear immediately to expire; after several hours passed in this state

they

they seem as if waking from a long dream, and relate all the reveries that fill their imagination.

The Madagascans have as many wives as they chuse, whom they divorce at pleasure, and think themselves much honoured if they are enjoyed by an European. They do the household work, but this does not prevent their being coquets, and to such a pitch, that they will employ whole days in adorning themselves to please their lovers.

In expressing the pleasure on the sight of parents or friends, from whom they have been long absent, the Madagascans have no noisy emotions of joy, neither do they embrace; a custom of which they are ignorant; but content themselves with touching the hand, without pressing it.

There are various methods by which these islanders imagine they can discover the truth. The principal are by water, Tanguin and fire. The first consists in swearing by the crocodile. Those who submit to it are obliged to cross

a river where these reptiles are in great numbers, and to stay a certain time in the middle of it. If the crocodiles do not attack him, he is deemed innocent. The southern inhabitants have a different trial by water : they wait till the sea is extremely agitated, and then expose the criminal on a rock without Fort Dauphin ; if the waves respect him, his innocence is acknowledged. The trial by fire consists in drawing a red hot iron over the tongue, and as it is impossible for the criminal not to be burned, those who undergo this trial are always esteemed guilty.

The Tanguin is one of the most terrible poisons in the vegetable world ; in doubtful cases, where proofs are wanting, they make the criminals swallow the Tanguin ; but those only who possess slaves and herds are tried by this method. When a chief loses one of his relations, if he knows any particular rich man, he forms a Cabar, that is to say, an assembly or council of the principal people of the village, and

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and the neighbouring chiefs. In their presence he accuses the person whose wealth he wants to usurp of having poisoned his relation, and demands that he shall take the Tanguin; if it is decided he shall take it, the chief goes to inform the accused of the council's resolution. The accused being innocent, is firmly persuaded that the poison will not hurt him. He names the day on which he will take it, and summons all his relations, preparing himself for the trial, abstaining from all food which has had life. On the appointed day, they pour him out a large dose of Tanguin, which commonly sends him to his grave. If he dies, he is pronounced guilty, and his relations become slaves of the chief, to whom his wealth by right belongs. However, as the chief has no other object than to possess himself of the slaves and herds, he gives the relations their liberty. It is thus, in a country subjected to the laws of such savages, that every person is obliged to conceal his wealth, if he wishes to escape the oppression of the chiefs,

who

who themselves run no risk of becoming slaves, as they are murdered the moment they are taken in war.

The Isle of Madagascar is divided into small principalities; every village has its chief, who lives independent. The royalty is hereditary.

The Dian, or chief, cannot undertake any measure without assembling the council. Strangers and even enemies may assist. Each gives his opinion, and speaks in his turn, according to his rank: two people are never heard speaking at the same time.

If this country was inhabited by Europeans, it would probably be the finest, most powerful and opulent place in the world; there we find mountains of quartz and rock-crystal, gold, silver and copper mines, precious stones, many quadrupeds, birds, insects and reptiles little known to Europeans, as well as vegetable productions; from the knowledge of which great assistance might be drawn for the use of mankind.

I shall

I shall now give an idea of the different Southern provinces that are known to us, and on which Mr. Bouchet has made some useful observations; as well as upon the epidemical disorders of this country.

These provinces are called Matalan, Manatingua, Anossia, Androua, Antecouda or Empate, Mariasale, Fierien, Machidores, Salaine, Playquelle, the valley of Amboulle, Mandrere, Eouda-inverse, and Manatan or Raqui Mouchy.

The province of Matalan is without doubt one of the finest provinces in Madagascar; it is situated on a pleasant hill, from the brow of which there is an easy declivity down to the sea shore; many rivers gently flow through it, and contribute to the fertility of the soil. Woods of lofty trees decotate the scene, as well as plenty of cocoanut trees, Areca and other trees; the Manioc, sweet potatoes, and yams are of an extraordinary size, and the sugar canes are much better than in our islands. Their rice is cultivated in dry ground.

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It were to be wished there was a road along the coast where ships might ride in security, as it is the most proper part of Madagascar for the establishment of a colony ; its situation, and the few marshy grounds to be found, announce this province to be more healthy than any of those which we have inhabited.

This province is governed by twenty chiefs of as many villages, but in affairs of consequence one of them has the casting vote ; they are called Zafe Raminie, and are all descended from an Arabian family that settled in this country ; the name of whose chief was Raminie : he had several children ; two of his children retired to the province of Anossia, which they subdued, and their descendants govern Anossia at this day. The other children succeeded to the authority of their father, and for about three hundred years the government has remained in their family.

Matalan affords subsistence to six thousand inhabitants, and four thousand horned cattle. Sheep and goats are very scarce, but th

poultry

poultry in abundance, plenty of game, and various kinds of pigeons and parroquets.

The province of Manatingue is watered by the river Menanpanie, which divides itself into many branches. The small islands that are formed by the river are frequently overflowed, and become marshes, which make the province unhealthy. The productions of Manatingue are the same as those of Matalan, but in less quantity. Two thousand horned cattle, and three thousand inhabitants, governed by eight chiefs called Zaphe Raniou, find subsistence in this province. These chiefs, who are native inhabitants of the country, are almost always at war with the Zaphe Raminies, whom they esteem as foreign usurpers. The treacherous character of the Zaphe Raminies makes them fear a similar conduct from their neighbours.

The sea is so boisterous along the coast of Manatingue and of Matalan, that even the canoes of the natives cannot land but in fine weather.

The province of Anossia, where Fort Dauphin is built, is bounded on the east by the sea, and on the west by a chain of mountains. The soil near the sea, being a barren light sand, affords no means of cultivation, and produces only small shrubs and little pasture. The interior part of the island is infected by the stagnated water in the marshes. There are many very poisonous rivers, which empty themselves only once or twice in the year, and that is in the great inundations, when their waters are forced down to the sea. The narrow passes between the hills are covered with fine trees fit for building; but the country is in general so very barren, that if the inhabitants had not the precaution to plant their rice in tanks, they would often be in want of food.

This province contains about fifteen thousand horned cattle, and is the properest soil for sheep and goats. Oranges, bananas, pine-apples and pomegranates are the common fruits, and there are also some plants of the vine, which without

cultivation produce good grapes. The number of inhabitants amounts to ten thousand. They are governed by two chiefs of Matalan, because they are descendants of the sons of Raminie. The supreme power is equally divided between them, and they have the right of life or death over all their subjects.

There are many bays in this province; our ships commonly anchor in that of Fort Dauphin, which, however, is not the best; that of St. Lucia being much more safe. In Galcon's Bay boats land with more facility, and ships are sheltered from the general winds.

In the tank of Fauzer there are yet to be seen the ruins of a fort built by the Portuguese in 1506, when they landed at Madagascar: and considerable excavations are also to be seen on a mountain where they explored the mines: the inhabitants affirm that they got a considerable quantity of gold.

The province of Androue is watered by the river Mandar, which empties itself into the sea only twice or thrice in the year, and rolls

its brackish water above twenty leagues inland. The country is extremely flat, and almost on a level with the sea, which infects all its water; and if it was not for a strong sand bank, the whole province would be overflowed in storms and spring-tides. The soil is barren, and improper for the growth of rice; the inhabitants, therefore, cultivate Milho Maize, potatoes, cotton, and palma Christi, from which they make oil, and exchange it with their neighbours for rice. They are more savage than the inhabitants of Anoffia, who, to prevent their having any commerce with us, persuade them that we only purchase slaves to devour them.

This province contains three thousand inhabitants, governed by eight chiefs, and affords provender for two thousand horned cattle, as also for numerous herds of sheep and goats.

Ships cannot anchor but in the open coast, where the water is tolerably smooth. Boats land without difficulty.

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The province of Antecouda, or Empate, contains 6000 inhabitants, commanded by eleven chiefs, who are deserters from the other provinces ; and, in consequence, always at war with their neighbours.

The soil is composed of a reddish kind of earth, which is only fit for the cultivation of small millet, potatoes and maize. The water is so bad that the inhabitants are reduced to drink rain water, which they collect during the storms.

As there is but little pasture, few horned cattle are to be seen ; but sheep and goats thrive well. The vessels anchor in the open sea. They however can shelter themselves under Cape St. Mary, near which there is marked on all the maps a bay called St. John's Bay ; probably it is but a lake, surrounded with a very narrow sand bank towards the sea, and which is closed when the wind blows from the south. The inhabitants affirm that a vessel was seen to

to enter this bay, but which could never get out.

The province of Mariafale is of great extent. The soil is equally dry with that of the aforementioned provinces. The only cultivation is millet, maize, and water melons. There are however some parts pretty well wooded. It is watered by a very large river, which empties itself into the sea, and forms a small bay, where vessels can anchor, at least when the S. and S. E. winds do not blow on the coast.

Ten thousand inhabitants subsist in this province, commanded by ten barbarous and cruel chieftains. When the Syren was lost, one of these chiefs, Dian-Bason, imprisoned all the unhappy sufferers who were saved from the wreck, and did not dismiss them, till he had first inhumanly plundered them. But he himself was murdered a few days after by the rest of the chiefs, who wanted a share of the booty.

Bul-

Bullocks, sheep, goats and slaves, abound in this country; the inhabitants of Fort Dauphin procuring from this province the major part of those they sell us.

The province of Fieren, where is the bay of St. Augustin, is a barren soil, little wooded, over-run with large ferruginous rocks, and covered with Fatagues. This province contains about eight thousand inhabitants, governed by seven chiefs. The bay of St. Augustin is more frequented by the English than by any other nation.. They carry some merchandize there, which they exchange for slaves. Sheep and goats are very reasonable. The country is watered by a very large river, and has pasture for about 6000 horned cattle.

The province of Machicores is in the interior part of the island; it is full of small hills, covered with flints, and contains about ten thousand inhabitants, governed by eleven chiefs. Their harvest is only rice, which they plant after the rains. The women rear silk worms, which furnish them with silk for their

Pagnes.

56. SONNERAT'S VOYAGES.

Pagnes. These Pagnes are much esteemed, and sold at a high price.

There are about 1000 head of cattle in this province. Quarries of different marbles, white, black, and grey are also to be found here; likewise a kind of gravelly stone, which is cut as easily out of the earth as soap, and hardens in the air.

The wealthy inhabitants have seraglios, kept by eunuchs, as they also have in other provinces. It is to be presumed that this practice, held in so much detestation by northern nations, has been introduced in Madagascar by the Arabians, as well as circumcision, which is a general custom almost over the whole island.

The province of Salame is inclosed in high mountains, from whence several rivulets flow, to fertilize the vallies, and where a quantity of vines are to be found. Salame contains about 2000 inhabitants, commanded by five chiefs. There are yet remaining the ruins of a stone house, thirty feet long, and twenty feet broad, which the country people say was built by

by Europeans who came to settle among them.

The small province Delaquelque is situated between Anossia and Androua. The soil though unfit for cultivation, and covered with ferruginous rocks, affords, however, excellent pasture. There are about 2000 inhabitants, governed by four chiefs.

The valley of Amboulla is one of the most beautiful provinces of Madagascar, watered by a large river; it extends on one side as far as Manatingue, and on the other it is bounded by a chain of mountains, through which there are only three passages. The narrow passes between the hills are covered with wood fit for building, and watered by small streams. This valley may contain fifteen thousand inhabitants, governed by twelve chiefs. The horned beasts are larger, and thrive better in Amboulla, than in any of the other provinces.

This spot, where the earth may be cultivated, would be extremely proper for the establishment

lishment of a colony. It might support itself, and become of consequence, by adding to it the province of Manatingue. The French formerly inhabited this place, and there is yet to be seen a large wall, three feet broad, that surrounded their factory; as also the wells they had sunk. When the natives had murdered all the Europeans who resided in Fort Dauphin, the French of the valley of Amboulla perished for want, and were, excepting two, all killed by the Madagascans; one was saved because he had married the daughter of a chief, and the other because he commanded a village.

There are in Amboulla two springs of mineral hot water: they have both the same degree of heat, taste, and the same properties, which proves that they must proceed from the same source, although they are four leagues distant from each other. The natives of the country attribute great virtues to them, particularly for all kinds of pain. There is yet a small river to be seen where the surface of the water bears gold dust; and near it is found the remains of a small

small redoubt, said to have been built by the Europeans.

The little country of Mandrere forms a province, which contains two thousand inhabitants, governed by four chiefs. It is situated at the foot of very high mountains. During four months of the year it is so cold, that water freezes two inches thick. The soil is favourable, and produces good rice. The remains of an old house built by the French, in 1662, are still to be seen.

The province of Ecouda-Enverse, is extensive and fertile, but little frequented, because the inhabitants, who are in number about 3000, governed by six chiefs, are always at war with the inhabitants of Matalan or Manatingne.

The country of Manatan, or Racquimouchi, forms a small province, situated at the head of the river Matalan. The soil is so barren that it produces nothing but reeds. It contains two thousand inhabitants, governed by six chiefs, who are the descendants of alman of three feet high, though themselves are of the

common

common stature. They have retained the name of Zapheraquimouche, which means dwarf. And this is apparently the reason why it is believed that there is a race of dwarfs in Madagascar.

Great numbers of wild bulls of a particular kind are found in this province; they are very small, and have no hump like other cattle.

After having given a light idea of the soil, productions and population of Madagascar, and of the means to trade there, I shall now speak of the healthiness and intemperance of the air, and the maladies which proceed from such cause.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE EPIDEMICAL FEVERS OF THE ISLAND OF MADAGASCAR.

EPIDEMICAL fevers are produced from the same cause, in every part of this great island. Their degree of malignity varies only as it relates to the greater or less operation of these causes re-united. The first cause doubtless originates from the number of marshes,

marshes, whose standing waters, infected by the quantity of grafts and rice straw which yearly rots, continually produce putrid exhalations; in the second place the different degrees of heat, and the winds in general circulating with more or less facility, may extend or contract this morbific leaven.

Long experience has taught these islanders that low and marshy places were unhealthy, that they must inhabit lofty situations, and cultivate the marshes with great precaution. Thus we see, in every part of the island, that their villages are built on the mountains, and that all the chiefs and even the common people hardly ever work at the cultivation of rice, but leave this dangerous employment to their slaves. To obviate this inconvenience, three fourths of the inhabitants cultivate only millet, and live on roots or berries, which they gather in the woods without much trouble.

Probably the excessive heat of the climate is the primitive cause of this careless indolence;

but

but the second cause, founded on experience, is necessarily connected with it.

The dreadful disorders of this country are not confined to man alone, but almost all the animal race are equally the victims. Great difference is observed in these kind of fevers, notwithstanding they are produced by one original common cause; for it is certain that Madagascar being situated under the torrid zone, its burning climate should increase the action of this feverish levan, and consequently occasion and produce a more violent and malignant fever. The marshes of this island are the causes of fevers all the year round, especially to strangers. But the most dangerous season, both for natives and strangers, is from the first of November to the end of April. It is certain, that during these six months, where the heat is excessive, this morbid levan insinuates itself into the body of animals, excercises its dissolving, acrid, putrid action; and by its nature changes one

part

part of the circulating liquid into a great quantity of bile.

These humours again acquire a new acrimony, and cause fevers or dysenteries, or lastly bilious inflammations of the lungs, and sometimes these three disorders at the same time. The natives of this country, whose lungs are more delicate than those of Europeans, are sometimes attacked by a violent fever, dysentery, and by an oppression of the lungs, which commonly ends in an abscess. This last disorder is principally occasioned from the bad regimen observed by black people when they have the fever, and from the medicines prescribed by the physicians.

The commerce with women also contributes in a great degree to give the fevers; it is not only dangerous, on account of their being all diseased, but also on account of their lasciviousness. Many have died on the second attack of the fever, after having slept several nights with these women. The use of gross meats is not less pernicious, because the nourishment

rishment causes a great quantity of biliary humours, which become corrupted sooner or later, according to the quantity of the circulating fluids.

This malady often shews itself by a violent attack of the fever, at other times by a weakness in the arms and legs, a nauseous taste in the mouth, little appetite, restless sleep, and always a violent head-ache. Then comes a shivering, followed by a sharp dry heat, the pulse quick and feeble during the cold fit, but augments during the hot fit, which is often violent. Then the head-ache increases, the diseased feels pain, tries to reach, and vomits a sour yellow green bile: these heats last several hours, often all the night, and decrease a little in the morning. The tongue is loaded with a brown-yellowish sediment, the teeth become foul, the breath tainted, the skin commonly dry and burning, and often of a jaundice colour. There is sometimes a gentle perspiration, but that is of no benefit to

the diseased ; this fever always increases, and commonly at irregular hours.

Sometimes it happens that the fever shews itself by a violent colic, followed by a flux, which continues several days, without any other symptoms. Slight attacks of the fever then follow, which always increase. Sometimes this bilious evacuation stops, at other times the flux increases at the same time with the fever ; the stools then, from day to day, acquire a sharpness ; this sharp and irritating humour inflames and ulcerates the bowels, and produces the true bloody flux.

This kind of flux is the more dangerous, as it is produced and retained by the morbific humour which circulates into the mass of fluid, and mixes with the juices which pass through the strainers of the stomach and bowels. These kind of fluxes are almost always mortal, especially if the patient is neglected, or badly treated in the beginning.

In whatever manner the fever shews itself, when it is not attended to or badly managed,

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it increases daily, the fits are of longer duration, more frequent and irregular, and sometimes the belly swells. Some patients experience a stoppage in the ears and throat, which seldom comes to a suppuration.

Fainting and lightheadedness follow, and the patient becomes insensible to his natural wants. The abundant matter which proceeds from his body has a fetid smell, is of a saffron colour, and commonly bloody. Sometimes trifling convulsive emotions are seen in the face. The pulse then decreases daily, becomes irregular and intermitting; the breast becomes full, and the diseased expires.

This disorder has no fixed time for its period or cure. In the north part of the island, and also on the eastern part, it often lasts from four to eight days; in the south, the progress is less rapid, and the diseased person often suffers two or three months before he dies.

Mr. Bouchet has transmitted an account to government of the method he always successfully

fully employed in treating these disorders, so fatal to Europeans. I shall not cite it, as it would lead me too far from my subject.

I shall terminate this chapter with the observation, that it would be very advantageous to the commerce of France, if Madagascar was better known, and more frequented, as it produces sugar and all the commodities of the East Indies; and being inhabited by a people who are still savages, colonies of a new kind might be formed, which, if established with prudence, and under wise laws, would procure great advantages, and be exempted from the inconveniences of those hitherto founded.

C H A P. IV.

OF THE ISLANDS OF
F R A N C E,
AND OF
B O U R B O N.

THE ISLAND OF FRANCE.

THE Island of France was formerly inhabited by the Dutch, who intended founding a colony; but the produce not defraying their expences, they found themselves obliged to relinquish the undertaking. Mr. De la Bourdonnais, governor for the Company,

at the island of Bourbon, thought it is his duty to take possession of a country, whose vicinity rendered it so convenient to his government. He sent inhabitants to people the place, and in the sequel it became the chief residence. But whatever pains were taken, the soil, always ungrateful, did not furnish subsistence for the colony, whose annual consumption was brought from foreign nations : the port where a staple might be made for India, is the only advantage that could be derived from this establishment ; however, no beggars are to be seen, as there are only two classes, the master and the slave. The inhabitants begin applying to cultivation. Many coffee-trees, and considerable sugar works, are to be met with, as well as indigo, superior to that of America ; but the plant is too dry in this island, and the cultivation will soon be neglected, as it does not pay the expence of making. Different sorts have been brought from Madagascar, the Coromandel coast, Agra, Bengal, China and America, in order to naturalize them, but without

70 SONNERAT'S VOYAGES.

out success, as it seems they have all degenerated ; and that the American plant was not proper for the soil, as on every trial it has only yielded the half of what it produces in America. Mr. de Cossigni, one of the most zealous cultivators in India, has made some interesting discoveries on this subject ; they are mentioned in his treatise on the making of indigo, printed by order of the Government of the Isle of France.

The cultivation of spices is more promising ; they were first brought to the isle in the years 1769 and 1771, by Messrs. Tremigon and Coetivit. Both these expeditions were undertaken by Mr. Poivre, intendant of the Islands of France and Bourbon, who, in his desire to enrich the colony, spared nothing to procure them this valuable branch of commerce. It has been affirmed, even to this day, that the spices brought to the Island of France had lost part of their quality ; but those who advanced this fact are known for people ja-

ious of the fame that Mr. Poivre acquired during his administration. This intendant has had, and even now has, enemies in the colony, because the useful man is always the butt of envy and the victim of ingratitude. Spices succeed well in the Isle of France; and at this day the clove-trees raised from the seed are loaded with cloves no-ways inferior to those we purchase from the Dutch; and in a little time the French may not only dispense with buying them from the Dutch, but also dispose of their own to other nations. The nutmeg-trees have not succeeded so well, because they are by nature of two sexes, a quality which was not known; and there being but few female plants among the number brought, they have not multiplied so quickly as the cloves. These lucky attempts deserve the utmost attention from the colonies; but it is to be feared that the Europeans who stop at this island may lead them on from project to project, in communicating their systematical ideas, and that they may neglect the cultivation

tion of coffee for the planting of cotton ; which they will afterwards neglect, and plant sugar-canæ, corn, maize, or manioc. Besides, there is another cause that will be a bar to the progress of cultivation, and that is, that no European goes to colonize in India ; they remain three or four years, during which time their endeavours are to enrich themselves by sending the little property they bring with them on the ships which go to purchase slaves at Madagascar, or Mozambique, a profitable commerce, as indeed those branches of commerce commonly are, which, to carry on, is a disgrace to human nature.

The inhabitant of the Isle of France never employs his wealth for the improvement of the lands ; even the slaves perform their work negligently. But what can be expected from an unfortunate wretch, who by dint of stripes is obliged to repay the interest of what he has cost ? I certainly know some humane and compassionate masters, who do not ill use their slaves, and even soften the rigours of their servitude ;

servitude ; but their number is very small. The other exercise over their negroes the most shocking and cruel tyranny. The slave, after having worked all day long, finds himself obliged to seek his food in the woods, and subsists wholly on unwholesome roots. They perish through want and bad treatment, without exciting the least sentiment of compassion ; for which reason they take every opportunity of breaking their chains, to seek independence and misery in the forest.

All the resources of industry can make nothing of the Island of France : the place will be always ungrateful to the inhabitants, and a comfortable existence can never be procured ; for without reckoning the ravages produced by the hurricanes, they have likewise to struggle against legions of rats, and destructive birds ; the Tarim and the Java bird, which were first brought there as a kind of curiosity, and carefully kept in cages, are now increased to such a degree, that they devour almost all the harvest. To drive them from the fields

sowed with grain, several negroes are obliged to stand centinels, who incessantly shout and clap their hands. The rats are so numerous that they often demolish a field of maize in one night. They also eat the roots and fruits of the young trees. Such were the causes that made the Dutch relinquish the island.

These pernicious animals have excited the attention of Government. Every inhabitant is obliged to destroy a certain quantity, according to the number of slaves he possesses, and to send the heads of the birds, and the tails of the rats, to the office of the police. But all these precautions avail not. It is impossible to get rid of them without detachments of soldiers and birds of prey conspired at the same time against them. By this method they formerly destroyed the locusts, whose number was so great, that when a cloud of these insects lighted on a field of corn or rice, not a vestige of either was to be seen. The Martin, a kind of blackbird, brought from India, subsists on the locust, and Government completed their destruction.

The

The Isle of France has been, and will ever be, fatal to the French settlements in India. It is thought to be the center of the French commerce, and that the troops lodged there can in war time give a speedy assistance to our factories; but it is well known that four months are required to carry information and orders to the Isle of France: and even with the speediest measures for embarking the troops, eight months more will elapse previous to their arrival at their destined port: thus a whole year passes before all the squadron sent to India can arrive there. The English, on the contrary receive news in seventy days. Masters of India, they maintain a superior force, and drive out the French, before even accounts of war can reach the Isle of France. It is requisite for the French, in order to keep their footing in this rich empire, to have a sea port on the Malabar coast, from whence in all seasons our fleets could watch the motions of their enemies; as it is well known that Pondicherry was twice taken on account of the French fleet leaving

the Coromandel coast, to return to the Isle of France.

If all the troops that have been sent to the Isle of France had been kept in India, and even better clothed and fed, the expence would have been much less ; besides, they would have been on the spot, and inured to the climate at the moment they were wanted ; and if France had not been conqueror by their assistance, they might at least have preserved their settlements and made their flag respectable. I am sensible that the commanding officer at the Isle of France always pretends that it is essential to leave a number of troops in the island, in case of a sudden rupture : they add to the grandeur of his state ; but in flattering his pride the troops are rendered useless to their country. However, there is no reason for deserting this island, as in time of peace it may serve as a magazine to all the European nations whom commerce attracts to India. But the administration of government must be entirely changed, and many abuses reformed,

before

before the state will receive any profit from the possession.

Although the Isle of France is but a spot on the earth, it is the most remarkable monument of revolutions that any part of the globe has experienced.

Every part of the soil is mixed with iron, and has passed through the flames; the mouth of an extinguished volcano, and many deep grottos, are yet to be seen.

The climate is soft, temperate and equal; nor are there any venomous reptiles, excepting the scorpion and the centopes.

This island was formerly very healthy; but since the earth has been cultivated, they are subject to fevers. Besides, (as Mr. de Cossigni has judiciously observed, in his treatise on indigo) the waters in the rivers are very slimy, owing to the dissolution of vegetables that fall into them, which causes obstructions, bloody fluxes, and dysenteries, very difficult to be cured.

The Isle of France is indebted for the greater part

part of its vegetable productions to the zeal of travellers, who have brought them from India, China, the Cape of Good Hope, and from Europe. Bullocks, as well as the major part of the birds, come from Madagascar, and the horses from the Isle of Bourbon and the Cape. The coast abounds with fish, and produces great quantity of shells, sword-fish and even coral. The vegetables are good, the hogs excellent, and the peas and artichokes equal to those in France; potatoes are also cultivated, which were brought from the Cape; patates are in plenty; in certain spots the herds thrive, and produce great profit; but the meat which the inhabitants eat is very indifferent, as none but diseased bullocks, or those that die by accident, are made use of.

The slaves feed on maize, manioc, patates, &c. The most common fruits are the different kinds of plantanes, pine-apples, guavas, and mangos; there are also peaches and apples, but very scarce, and not equal to those in Europe. Some spots also produce grapes and strawberries.

Owing

Owing to the care of some zealous cultivator, particularly Mr. Cere, director of the royal gardens, they begin to gather some other very good fruits. He has distributed all over the island seeds of Litchi, Longane, Wampi, Advocate, Evi or fruit of Cythere, Rima or bread fruit, Cocoa, cloves, nutmeg, Ravensara, sandal, &c.—Mr. de Cossigni, who has the most beautiful garden in the colony, is still anxious to increase and distribute, with the inhabitants, the scarce and valuable plants which he has procured at great expence from Europe, the Cape, Batavia, China and India.

As to wood, ebony is very common ; there are several kinds to be found, such as black, white and marbled. Mr. Linnæus junior has ascertained the species of this tree, which was till now unknown, and has ranked it amongst the diospiros. When we traded to China, ebony-wood was an object of exportation ; there is no wood proper for building among the rest of the trees. The wood of the Isle of France is too heavy, and swells too much ; on

urgent

urgent occasions the Takamaka alone can be used: this wood yields a turpentine, of value in medicine, and which is called Takamaka Cinnamon wood is generally used for furniture; it is well streaked, but some months after the work is finished it contracts a fetid smell. The apple tree and Takamaka are for common use.

The Isle of France is fruitful in game; there are Pintados in great quantity, common partridges, turtles, Corbigos, and two kind of hares, but not in the least resembling those in Europe. The first kind is small, and partakes as much of the rabbit as of the hare: it does not burrow; the body is long, the ears short, and the flesh white. The other kind is larger, but still less than those in Europe. Its ears are shorter, the hair smooth and short, and is also distinguished by a black triangular spot at the back of the head. Deer begin to be very scarce; and to prevent their total destruction, the Government have been obliged to publish an order for punishing all those who shall be convicted of destroying them.

OF

OF THE ISLE OF BOURBON.

THE Isle of Bourbon has the advantage of the Isle of France, both in extent and productions: its first inhabitants lived in a simplicity nearly approaching to a state of nature. Situated in a serene and temperate climate, where diseases were unknown, they employed themselves in the cultivation of coffee, corn, and indigo. The sale of these commodities, and the increase of their flocks, satisfied their ambition. The presence of Europeans had not at that time extended the circle of their pleasures, or the limits of their desires; but they soon penetrated into this country with a number of slaves. Their mountains were ransacked to satisfy their avarice, and repeated eruptions of volcanos destroyed one part of the Island. The air was no more the same. Diseases were naturalized, and made a rapid progress: children were sent to Paris to be educated,

cated, and returned back with the vices of the capital. The chapter of wants increased, from the diminution of wealth ; agriculture was left to the slaves and esteemed a contemptible and degrading occupation, which the proprietor would have blushed to have exercised ; so that at present this island, excepting a few things, is upon a level with the Isle of France.

The productions of the soil will soon be deficient for the supply of the inhabitants; and in the inevitable and not far distant emigrations, the Sechelles cannot fail of being a resource. These isles actually merit the attention of government. Their advantageous situation for ships going to India, the goodness of their soil, their various harbours, where storms never have been felt, are so many circumstances that ought to give them a preference to the Islands of France and Bourbon.

The Isle of Bourbon has no harbour. It is said that there is a possibility of making two; one at the river Dabord, and the other

in the great tank in the district of St. Paul; but I am of opinion the work should not be attempted.

The productions of Bourbon are very nearly similar to those of the Isle of France. The coffee is particularly delicious, and not easily distinguished from that of Mocha. A considerable quantity was exported, but the hurricane, in 1772 destroyed all the coffee trees. The cultivation was then changed from coffee to corn, and maize, which is sent to the King's warehouses; but if His Majesty should withdraw his troops from the Isle of France, the inhabitants of Bourbon would become wretched.

From what I have said it may be observed, that these two isles subsist at the expence of the commerce of India, and to the detriment of the finances of the kingdom.

part I am of opinion the world round has no
better

the situation of wealth; a colony
which is the property of the crown.

C H A P. V.

THE HISTORY OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

A colony which is the property of the crown.

The colony was established, but the first

settlers were driven away by the natives.

OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

and of the colony was established.

IN THE year 1652 the Dutch began to

establish this colony; but, fearing their

endeavours would prove ineffectual at that

time, they did not finally naturalize them-

selves till the year 1760 and 1761, the years

when the squadron of Mr. Aché left great

wealth there. From this period their houses

were constructed with greater care; the set-
tlement increased, and is, at present, the best

harbour for all ships going to the East Indies.

The environs of the city, which were formerly barren rocks, are now changed into beautiful gardens, from the earth which has been brought there. The fruits and vegetables of Europe are cultivated with great success, and the interior part of the country, which, like the rest of Africa, was a burning sand, is, under the hand of Europeans, transformed to a soil fit for vegetation. The habitations of the Dutch extend two hundred leagues up the country, where corn, and other grain fit for the soil, are cultivated. The harvest is sufficiently plentiful, not only for the sustenance of the inhabitants, and revictualing ships that anchor at the Cape, but also to make exports to Europe, which are made indeed to the disadvantage of the Company, but with a view that the inhabitants should not neglect their tillage. They rear large flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, and besides make yearly a great quantity of butter, which is brought down to the city in carts. The hills around are mostly planted with

with vines, on the same plan as the vines at Madeira. They yield a sweet, but indifferent white wine. The French call at the Cape for this wine, which they carry to the Isle of France; as what is exported from Europe to that island is not sufficient for their consumption.

The hill called Constantia, about two leagues from the town, produces a sweet wine, much sought after by all nations, but not so wholesome as pleasant to the palate: it weighs a degree heavier than salt water, which has been always thought the heaviest liquor.

The pearl mountain, at some leagues distance up the country, merits observation. It is one of the highest environs of the Cape, and composed of one single block of granite, split in several places. Near the summit, nature has formed several grottos and basons, where white and yellow rock crystal are to be found. The Cape has also its hot mineral waters. There are two streams, to which

marvel-

marvellous properties are attributed. One runs thirty leagues, and the other sixty leagues, distance from the town; the property of the first is to mark linen in a manner never to be got out, while at the same time it gives to withered herbs their original bloom; so that when they are taken out of the stream, they appear as if they had been fresh gathered. The other mineral, with the same property, has also that of whitening linen in a superior manner, without the use of soap.

The country abounds in a variety of heath, herbs and plants.

The Protea argentea, or silver tree, is the only tree of natural growth in this country, and at the same time the only tree which nature has placed at least one hundred leagues inland; all those alleys, of oaks, poplars, chestnut and walnut tree which we so much admire, are the produce of Europe, degenerated at the Cape. The most scarce animals are also the produce of this place: we here find the Cameleopard, the mountain goat, zebras, and the rhinoceros

with

with two horns; buffalos also of the largest size, the buse of whose horns are of an enormous weight; lions, tygers, elephants, elks, wolves, wild goats, small goats, whose horns resemble the screw of a wine-prefs; deer, antelopes, Hippopotames or river-horse, sea-wolves, with a variety of birds of the most exquisite beauty, unnoticed by the major part of writers who have described this place.

The coast abounds with fish and shells, as well as marine plants.

The Hottentots, their neighbours, are grown familiar with the Dutch; their greatest wealth consists in rearing herds of cattle, of which they sell the Hollanders a part. Their principal food is mutton, broiled after the manner of the Buccaneers, which they eat as bread, with fresh meat; sometimes they substitute in its place a small mealy onion, which when roasted has the taste of a chestnut; for which reason it is called Hottentot's bread. *acteonidi edibus sandex frugibus* These

These people are yet but little known ; they have neither priests, temples, gods, or learned men. All that we learn is, that they assemble at the new moon, and dance all night, but whether or not from the spirit of religion is uncertain ; they, however, have an evil genius, which they acknowledge in a small insect that we call Mante ; and some Hottentots superstitiously cut off the joint of their little fingers in their infancy, imagining that after this operation they cannot be hurt by the evil genius.

Their manners are very gentle. Accustomed to independence, they cannot bear servitude. If a Hottentot enters into the service of the Dutch, in the station of a domestic, as soon as he has gained any thing he quits his employment, and returns to his family. The apron which it is said nature has given to their women, is erroneous ; it is true that there is, in some women, an excrescence, which sometimes hangs down the length of six inches, but from this particular phenomenon no general rule can be formed.

The knowledge of this nation is particularly interesting. Mr. Gordon, commandant of the troops at the Cape, has successfully made three journeys up the country. We are not only indebted to him for an account of the country, and people by whom it is inhabited, but for a great number of plants and animals, hitherto unknown, which he has described like an able observer. Beyond the country of the Hottentots he has discovered a new people, partaking much of the Coffeee, and living in small burrows. But we must wait for the publication of his remarks, before we can have any particular account of this discovery.

C H A P. VI.**OF THE ISLAND OF CEYLON, THE
MALDIVES, AND MALACCA.****OF THE ISLAND OF CEYLON.**

THE Portuguese settled themselves at Ceylon in the year 1506, and retained their possessions till 1658, an æra when the Dutch deprived them successively of many of their factories, and drove them out. The Dutch soon made themselves to be respected, and daily established their power.

number of factories which they at first possessed did not deprive strangers of the liberty of trading with the natives on the coast, for the produce of the island; but the desire of appropriating to themselves an exclusive commerce, made them declare war against the king of Candy. The English took this opportunity of endeavouring to procure themselves some settlements. They appeared on the coast with three men of war, and treated with the king; but as they could not bring themselves to come into his presence with naked feet, nor comply with other mean submissions which the eastern princes require from Europeans, they gave up the project of driving out the Dutch. At length the king proposed peace to the Hollanders, who accepted it, on condition that he should yield up to them all the coast, and from thence the extent of three leagues inland. The king, without thinking, consented to the proposal, and by this arrangement imprisoned himself in his own territories, and became their slave.

The principal settlements of the Dutch on this island are Colombo and Negombo, in the south, West Galle and Matura in the South; Trincomaley and Jaffanapatnam in the North East, and Amsterdam and Manard in West North West. They have, besides, several small guard-houses, where they keep a serjeant, and seven or eight soldiers, to guard the coast, and prevent foreign vessels which pass, from having any communication with the commerce of the country. Colombo is the capital of the island, and the second settlement in India. The towns are similar to their other colonies, very neat, the streets straight; and lined with a double row of trees. Some have canals in the middle. The greatest part of the inhabitants are Christians, as they are descended from the Portuguese. The Dutch permit them to build churches, and to send for priests from Goa.

No foreign vessel enters this port without a Dutch pilot on board, who makes a large circuit, as if he would avoid danger; but this

trick

trick is now of no effect, as we know their ports as well as themselves.

Ceylon is one of the largest islands, very fertile, well wooded, and produces two crops of rice yearly. There are some very high mountains, which serve as a sea-mark to vessels going to India. The pic of Adam, which is to be seen from all parts, is, doubtless, the highest mountain in Asia ; whose summit is lost in the clouds. It takes its name, of the Pic of Adam, from the trace of a foot to be seen there, which is said to have been made by the father of the human race.

This island has been always believed the Taprobane of the ancients ; others imagine it is the Ophir of Solomon ; but there is greater probability that the Grecian fleet went in quest of, and brought home their riches from, Acheen.

It seems that this island was formerly the Indian theatre of war. The sacred books often mention Ceylon, by the name of the island Langue ; and, to adopt the Oriental style, many

many of their gods (who were only men deified) have dethroned the kings of this island. But is more particularly celebrated in the history of Vichenou, whose tenets, propagated on this spot under the name of Rama, are kept to this day by the sect of Bouddists.

The Indians imagine this island to be in the middle of the globe, and that Rama, to carry the war there, built a bridge at the strait of Manard, which is still called the Ape's bridge.

This country is worthy of observation, but the Dutch, who gain such great advantages from Ceylon, will never permit European naturalists to make it the objects of their pursuits. Cinnamon and pepper are the most lucrative productions; the first is only cultivated in the southern part, and is esteemed the best cinnamon; as that from Cochinchina, although of superior quality, is little known, and extremely difficult to be procured: of course it can never injure that of Ceylon. As
to

to the pepper, it is inferior to what is produced on the Malabar Coast.

The French have carried slips of the cinnamon tree to the Isle of France, where they have thriven well. The cinnamon produced is not less aromatic than that of the Dutch, and may become as marketable when the true manner of preparing it is known.

Arek, cardamums, ivory and elephants are also great objects of commerce of this island; there also gold, silver, copper and iron mines, as well as all sorts of precious stones, and false stones of all colours, which resemble them perfectly. Ceylon is also famous for its pearl fishery in the streights of Manard.

After having given a succinct idea of the soil and productions of the country, we shall now say a few words of Maldivia Islands, which in their actual state cannot be the object of long dissertation.

OF THE MALDIVES.

THE Maldives form a considerable archipelago, intersected by wholesome canals ; they are flat, well wooded, and produce only some vernacular fruits. Vessels may approach very near the shore without the least danger. The French East India Company kept a corporal and some soldiers on these islands, but Mr. de Lally relieved the guard in 1759. As for the inhabitants, they are very poor, have no cultivation, not even for their subsistence, as they fetch the rice they consume from the neighbouring coast. They have no other object of commerce but Cowries. After fishing for them, they place them in heaps to the leeward of their habitations, that the fish may rot ; but this does not prevent putrefaction from producing a bad air, because the earth of itself, or by the different matter it contains, exercising an attractive power upon all vapours whatever, draws the most subtle, and of con-

sequence the most dangerous vapour of this putrefaction, which must necessarily produce diseases.

These islands are also so flat, that at high tide the greatest part of the archipelago is overflowed, which makes them very unhealthy, and obliges the inhabitants to fix their habitations on the uneven heights of the bays. Their boats are too unsteady to bear the sea, yet they carry on their traffic with them on the Malabar and Coromandel Coasts; and some of these people, without the least idea of navigation, have crossed the Gulph of Bengal and reached Acheen, to traffic for salted Bonitos, a very common food in that country. It is surprising this food does not bring on diseases.

The Europeans who venture to eat this salt fish are afflicted with a fever accompanied with a violent head ache, which lasts several days, and their bodies become red, as if they had been struck in a violent manner by the sun.

From the wreck of the ship Duras, which was lost on these islands in 1776, the King of

of these archipelagos has built a vessel of two hundred tons burthen, which he sends yearly to the Coasts of Coromandel and Orixa.

Every village has a chief, who pays his tribute to the king, in cowries ; and the king himself, in his turn, is tributary to a sovereign on the Malabar Coast.

The greater part of the Maldivians are Mahometans, which is a probable reason to imagine they are descended from some Arabians cast away on these islands, in their passages from the Red Sea to the Malabar or Coromandel Coast.

OF MALACCA.

MALACCA is situated in the southern part of the peninsula of Malay. The Dutch reap but little advantage from this settlement. The major part is inhabited by the Chinese, an indolent race, and the other by the Malays, who are naturally mischievous. Fear alone of a nation they dread, keeps them in a kind of discipline, unknown among themselves.

Two hundred years ago the peninsula of Malay was well peopled. Their ports were every year filled with ships from China, Cochinchina, India, and Siam ; but the tyranny of the sovereigns obliged them to quit their land of slavery to establish different colonies in the neighbouring islands. Achem, Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes, the Moluccas and the Philippines, are in great part inhabited by the Malays.

Malacca was formerly the residence of sovereigns, and held the first rank among the Indian towns. The Portuguese built a strong citadel there, and maintained their commerce for an hundred and twenty years.

The Dutch drove them out in 1641, but the conqueror, as a reward for his victory, was beheaded on his return to Holland. He was charged, as a crime, for having permitted some nuns whose convent was in the citadel, to go out in procession, each carrying a lighted wax-taper. The nuns in consequence got some very large candles made, which were hollow,

hollow, and filled them with gold and diamonds, which each of them had deposited in their monastery.

The Dutch gave free toleration to all religions in the countries they subdued. They wisely thought, that true policy requires that people of all nations and all sects should be permitted, in order to make a settlement flourish. The Christian town, as well as Catholic church, still remain.

The citadel is large; there should be six hundred men in garrison, but that number is never complete, as small detachments are drafted to protect the small factories on the coast. A river whose source is eighty leagues inland, washes the walls of the fort. The river is narrow, and the entrance very troublesome; if you run aground on a bank, you are obliged to wait for high water to get up to Debarquadair. It is probable political motives prevent the Dutch from digging a canal, to make the access to this place more convenient.

Nature has been particularly partial to this country,

country, for here a spring eternally reigns, and all its productions are to be met with at all seasons.

Malay is intersected by many rivers, and covered with impenetrable forests, for which reason it is little known to Europeans. Even the inhabitants themselves cannot go far up into the country, as those immense forests, which border on the settlements, are a vast habitation for wild beasts and venomous reptiles.

The animal and vegetable productions of this country are almost the same as in the Philippines, and the country itself has also great resemblance with that Archipelago; so that it may be presumed it was separated from it by some violent earthquake.

The Dutch have not applied themselves to the improvement of agriculture in this country with the same ardour as they have done in their colonies. There is not a single garden in the environs of the town, which are, like the inland country, covered with wood, and are

are just as full of tygers, buffaloes and elephants. There are also a great many marshes, which cannot be dried, and of consequence must be unhealthy.

It is surprising that the Dutch have been able to maintain themselves so long in a country inhabited by such a mutinous mischievous race. The Malays, naturally cruel, are fond of opium, which makes them furious. When they have taken a certain quantity, nothing can restrain them, and they devote themselves to death. This is a kind of disease which may be termed madness. They run through the street with a crit in each hand, crying *Amoc*, which in Malays signifies, I will put every thing to death. In this state of fury, their fiery eyes start from the head, the mouth foams, their arms are whirled about, and they kill all that comes in their way. The people fly and shut their doors. The governor sends out a detachment after the madman, who when he sees them, far from retreating from a certain

a certain death, flings himself upon the bayonets till he expires.

This natural ferocity has no influence on the idiom of their language, which is the softest in the world. There are gold and silver mines in the interior part of the country, but they never have been yet worked. Calin (a kind of tin which they send to China) is found on the superficies of the earth, and is the only commerce from which the Company derive any profit; and that is not sufficient to pay their servants, and the expences they must unavoidably be at to maintain their establishment on this coast. The cane trade is so trifling, that they were obliged to give it up to the inhabitants, on their paying a small duty.

The neighbouring islands furnish the Dutch with egle, sandal, and fir-wood. Some Malays carry on a smuggling trade. Those who are known by the name of Bouguis, go to the Moluccas, for spices, which they carry to Acheen and Quida. Those who smuggle Calin, cruize in the straits, and dispose of it to

Europeans

European ships on their passage to China. The Company, in order to prevent this fraudulent trade, keep cruisers, who endeavour to seize their boats.

At Malacca there are beings well known to be Anthropophagi, as well as others, who have only a human appearance. They live in trees, and if any traveller passes by their retreat, they come down and devour him. There are others not so fierce, who wander in the woods, having no connexion even with creatures that resemble them. They live on fruit and roots, and only cohabit with women when forced by nature; which seems to prove, that in a state of nature man has a set time for his amours, like other animals. Some of these savages are a little civilized, and traffic with the Malays, but without having any communication with each other. They put the Calin they have gathered on the mountains, at the foot of the tree they inhabit. The Malay, in exchange, puts fruit, and other trifles he has brought, which the savage takes as soon

as he is gone. Their language is not known to the Malays. I have seen one of these savages, who was taken very young, and is now the servant of a counsellor, but very lazy.

There are also found a kind of men whose feet are turned directly contrary to ours; however, though I was assured of the fact by the commandant of the place, it wants some new observations to confirm it.

Malacca produces several fine fruits, and among the rest the Mangostein, esteemed the most delicious fruit in India.

C H A P. VII.

OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE MOLUCCAS.

THE Philippines and the Moluccas are commonly divided into two archipelagos ; but it seems to me they form only one ; and, if they belonged to the same sovereign, would without doubt be comprehended under one name.

The Spaniards are in possession of the Philippines, and the Dutch of the Moluccas. The last are richer and more considerable than the first. They owe their fertility to a laborious and industrious commercial nation, who have

always applied to cultivation ; while in the Philippines every thing breathes the indolence of a people where religion is the only object, and that for no other purpose than the gaining of proselytes.

OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THE Philippines extend from the third or fourth degree to the nineteenth or twentieth latitude, and comprehend many islands, of which the major part are little known. The principal islands, and those on which the Spaniards have settlements, are Luson, Mindoro, Panay, and Mindanao.

The Island of Luson is to the northward of all the others, where the Spaniards have built Manilla, the capital of their settlements in this archipelago. The advantageous situation of this island for the commerce of China and many parts of India, ought to make it the richest city in the world ; but where is the Spaniard who employs himself to gain these transient

transient riches, when they must be obtained by the labours of commerce, and at the expence of his national prejudice !

Manilla lies in fourteen degrees and a half north latitude ; the climate is much the same as at Pondicherry, and Madras : the city large, and well built, the houses handsome, and the streets straight : the churches are also magnificent. The city is fortified, and built on the bank of a river, which washes its walls, and whose divided streams literally flow through all the Island of Lufon. The soil of Manilla is fertile, and fit for all kinds of cultivation ; but in the hands of the Spaniards no cultivation is to be seen. They have neither profited by the situation of the city, nor of the fertility of the earth which surrounds it ; but have left it to exhaust itself, and bury in its own bosom the produce it naturally yields, which they are too indolent to reap. The law itself, which ought to support the husbandman, in Manilla, opposes the progress of husbandry, and that abundance which na-

nature

ture would bestow on mankind ; here exportation is prohibited ; and as the produce of the earth exceeds the wants of the small number of inhabitants, the overplus rots on the soil which produces it :—however, it happens some years, that the variations of the atmosphere, hurricanes, rains, or drought, change the fertility into barrenness ; and the most dreadful famine lays waste a country which should never feel its approaches.

But such is the general ignorance, such the laziness, the blind and blameable confidence in Providence, that they never provide but for the yearly consumption. The most dreadful misery is sometimes the consequence of this dangerous security, so contrary to the laws of nature. The instinct of animals should teach us to hoard provisions ; but the Spaniard has not even this foresight.

They reckon about twelve thousand Christians at Manilla. This city was formerly much more populous, at the time when it was frequented by the Chinese, many of whom

settled there, and carried on commerce; but a governor, over religious, banished them, from false policy, and drove them out of the island. Arts and commerce decayed, which have never revived since; and want and depopulation have been the melancholy consequences of this administration.

Ships do not anchor before Manilla; the entrance of the river is closed by a very dangerous bar; at high tides small vessels, however, pass and unload their cargoes before the owner's door. Those vessels which are obliged to winter at Manilla, retire to the port of Cavita, situated at the bottom of the bay, to the south-east, and three leagues from Manilla.

Cavita has a fort, but not in a state to resist the attack of Europeans. It is built on a neck of land, which the sea threatens to overflow. This port is not secure from the North and North-west winds. There are worms in this bay which stick fast to the ships, and soon render them unfit for sea. There is
also

also another inconvenience, which is the being obliged to fetch water at a great distance, and that in the flat-bottomed boats of the country, as no other can go so far in the river.

Three parts of the city, (in itself not very considerable) are occupied, like all the other Spanish possessions, with convents. Without the city is the suburb of St. Roch. It is a heap of bamboo-houses, covered with plantain leaves; the remains of a church are to be seen, that seems to have been very beautiful, which the English and the Moors destroyed in the year 1762, and this holy place is now become the habitation of animals.

The Spaniards have several settlements in the island of Luson: we should imagine they have no intention of establishing colonies, as they have only sent monks, and seem to have no other object but the propagation of the Catholic religion; the people who have submitted to the Spanish yoke have hardly any marks of a civilized nation; languishing in inactivity, they want energy, and appear equally indifferent to the practice of virtue, or the

com-

commission of crimes. Laziness, a neglect of themselves, and timidity, constitute their character, and wretchedness is their habitual state; but there are some parts where the Spaniards have not been able to conquer: in vain have they endeavoured to subdue the people retired there; in vain have they employed force, severity and punishments, to bring them under the yoke, and convert them to Christianity; these people have withdrawn themselves from the yoke, in flying to defiles, where the Spaniards cannot attack them. They have carried with them into their chosen retreat, the remembrance of the evils which they had suffered, and those with which they were threatened; and from the bottom of their asylum nourish an implacable hatred against foreigners, whom they esteem the oppressors of their natal soil, and meditate and prepare without ceasing the means of revenging themselves. Armed with courage, and animated with hatred, they dare approach even to the gates of the capital; their track is

marked by pillage, murders, devastation and rapes. They subsist at the expence of their countrymen who have submitted. They carry off their property, and take from them the support of a miserable life, which the others have neither the strength or courage to defend.

In the mountains there are also found inhabitants who are absolutely savages; they fly at the sight of a human creature, nay even at the sight of each other, and wander alone, stopping at the approach of night, and sleeping in hollow trees. There is no family amongst them. The invincible force of nature alone softens their untractable character, and compels the men to like the women chance offers to them, and whom their passion induces them to seek for.

The inhabitants of the Isle of Lufon are called Tagals, as are all the inhabitants of the Philippines. They seem to have originated from the Malays, to whom they bear some resemblance. Their language, though different

from

from the Malay, has the same pronunciation and softness. All these islands seem to be inhabited by the same race of people, whose maners are only changed. At Manilla, there has been such a mixture of Chinese and other nations, that they are now a motley race.

The Manillians are swarthy, stout and well made. Their dress is a linen shirt, made with the threads of Abaca, a kind of plantain tree. This shirt is very short, and goes over a very large pair of drawers; but their greatest profuseness in dress is to have large red embroidered and very fine handkerchiefs: they commonly wear three, one over the head, another round the neck, and carry one in their hand. They are manufactured on purpose for them, by the English at Madras.

The women wear a kind of small shift, which does not reach so low as the navel, with a handkerchief round their necks, but not dyed: a white linen goes round their body, and is fastened by one end to the waist; over this linen they fling another of a different colour, fabrica-

ted by the inhabitants of the Island of Panay; and over all this dress they throw a mantle, commonly black. Their hair, which is also black and beautiful, is sometimes so long that it reaches the ground: they take the greatest care of it, anointing it with cocoa-nut oil, and twisting it in the Chinese manner; towards the top of the head they make a knot, which is fastened by a gold or silver pin. On their feet they wear embroidered slippers, but so very small that they cover only the top of the foot.

The Indian houses at Manilla are made of bamboo, and covered with plantain leaves. They are built on pillars of wood, raised about eight to ten feet high from the ground, and they go up to them on a small ladder, which is taken away at night. The custom of raising houses in this manner is to keep them from being damp, and the taking away the ladder that wild beasts and the barbarous part of the inhabitants may not enter. Their bed is commonly a mat laid on the floor.

Their

Their food is boiled rice, which they eat with salt fish, or putting some pimento into the water the rice was boiled in, to take away its insipidity.

There are several lakes in the Island of Luconia: the most considerable is that which the Spaniards call Laguna de Bay. The river Manilla takes its course from this lake, for which reason a boat may go to it and its environs; it is about thirty leagues round, and a hundred and twenty fathom deep. In the middle of the lake is an island, which serves as an asylum for some Indian families. They live by fishing, and preserve their liberty by not suffering any person to approach the place of their retreat. This lake is bounded on the west by high mountains; the low-lands are fertile, and inhabited by a gentle race, who employ themselves in making mats, linen, and other work with Abáca. It is probable this gentleness is owing to their treatment from the first religious men who were sent to make them Christians.

The

118 SONNERAT'S VOYAGES.

The Spaniards, in giving them a religion, have not changed their laws; they have actually preserved their ancient customs, and are governed by an Indian of their own village, who is named by the Spaniards, and whose authority they acknowledge.

This people, though gentle in their nature, rigorously punish crimes. The greatest in their eyes is adultery, and this is the only crime they punish with death.

To the eastward of this lake immense plains extend; large and deep rivers flow across them, which diffuse to a great distance a natural fertility; and this district might be the country of a numerous nation, where the people might live happily by the cultivation. But we only perceive here and there some villages built, melancholy remains where men reside without virtue or probity; who, perverse themselves, mutually fear each other; and instead of laws, of whose protection they are ignorant, place their safety in the strength of arms, which they are never without, and hold them ready

ready for defence whenever they meet each other; thus their communication has more the resemblance of a constant warfare, than an act of civil society. The ties of blood itself are not sufficient security; parents, brothers, husband and wife, live in a state of disfidence, and consequently of reciprocal hatred. These manners, so different from the gentle character of their neighbours, may be derived from the manner in which they were subdued, and the idea of the punishments their fathers suffered to oblige them to become Christians.

There are many volcanos in the Island of Luson, which is the most probable cause for the frequent earthquakes to which it is subject. They have yearly two, three, or four.

This has influenced the Spaniards in the manner of building their houses; the first story is of wood, and the whole building is supported by wooden pillars. They have also, by way of precaution, a small bamboo hut in the court or garden, where all the family flock, on perceiving symptoms of an earthquake.

It

It seems, as Mr. Gentil has well observed, that earthquakes are here more frequent at the end of the year, and most commonly in the night time: I felt two in the month of December, 1770; the first was violent, and threw down many houses; it began at nine o'clock at night, by a strong southerly wind, which agitated the sea. The atmosphere was full of a thick red vapour, and at two o'clock I felt three repeated shocks, which gave me a palpitation of the heart. The ships in the road felt the same shocks, and imagined they were aground, while the Spaniards began to sing the Rosaria.

Many springs of hot water are caused by the volcanos in Luconia; marvellous properties are attributed to some of them, particularly those of Baily, on the borders of Laguna de Bay, where the King has built an hospital and public baths.

The commerce of Manilla might be made very considerable, and the city become the most opulent and commercial of any city in Asia.

The

The Spaniards themselves might go to China, Cochinchina, India, Bengal, Surat, and even to the Isle of France, from which places they might procure the articles they want for themselves, and for the commerce of Mexico, and carry for barter the productions of their island; but the Spaniard, naturally lazy, had rather enjoy his indolence, which he calls tranquility, than export the productions of his country; an exchange which is necessarily attended with some fatigue.

Government has prohibited the reception of any foreign vessels in their port. All the French navigators who have endeavoured to establish a communication, and have been to Manilla to trade, have been always badly received; and the owners, from a bad choice of their goods, have suffered a great loss on their cargoes. The obstacles in loading and unloading have entirely disgusted the French merchants of the Isle of France, notwithstanding that the two nations might reap equal benefit from this commerce.

Only Chinese and Indians are received at Manilla, and these under pretext that the people may be converted. These are the ships which carry to Manilla the articles of consumption and luxury, for which they receive in return the piasters brought by the Acapulco galleon.

The articles to be procured at Manilla are cordage, pitch and tar, linens, canes, rotins, indigo and rice: their cotton is of superior quality, and might be an essential article of exportation to China, where cent. per cent. is gained on the many cargoes shipped from Surat.

Sugar canes thrive well, and yield a sugar superior in quality to that of Batavia. They also strip the bark of a tree which serves for cinnamon, but there is a sharpness joined to the taste of the cinnamon: The bark is thick and porous, and the tree is not a cinnamon tree. The Spaniards barter it with the Chinese, who however have no great estimation for it, as the same kind of tree is to be found at

Hainam,

Hainam, Tonquin and Cochinchina, from whence they procure it.

There is also a kind of wild nutmeg to be found, but without perfume, and of course not saleable; it is small, and the tree which bears it has leaves a foot long: the same kind is to be found at Madagascar.

Tobacco succeeds well. The Manilla cheroots are famous throughout India, for their agreeable flavour; and the women of the country smoke them all day long.

The Manilla cocoa is esteemed superior to the American, and is the only tree cultivated in almost all the Philippines, as they are great drinkers of chocolate, which they take continually, and present it as a refreshment at all visits. Neither the cocoa tree nor tobacco are the natural growth of the Philippines; they were transplanted from new Spain. Wax may be also got at Manilla, as the mountains abound with bees. All the rivers carry down with them a great deal of gold, which proves there must be gold mines; the Indians gain thirty

sols per day to wash it from the dirt. Iron is found here in clumps, but mixed some other metal, which makes it softer than ours : they forge it such as they find it. There is also the load stone, and considerable quarries of marble, from whence they dig what is used for the ornaments of the churches.

At Mindoro the Spaniards have only some small settlements. All travellers have asserted that the inhabitants of this island have tails ; but it is a mistake.

The principal settlements of the Spaniards in the isle of Panay, are Ilo-Ilo, and Antigue ; the latter has the only good anchoring place in the island.

Antigue is ten degrees forty two minutes in latitude. The anchoring place is ten fathoms, and at a good distance from the land. Ships cannot anchor in November, December and January, without running great danger. The S. W. and W. winds blow on the coast, and make a great swell in the sea. Ships are watered at small stream situated to the North-

ward. There is a more considerable river, which serves as a ditch to the fort, and where boats may go a great way up; but the water is brackish even at low tide. The inhabitants of this island, more industrious than those of the Island of Luconia, manufacture handkerchiefs and linen, with cotton and the fibres of a plant which grows in the country; they clothe themselves with the coarsest sort, and traffic for the remainder with the inhabitants of the neighbouring islands.

In other respects Antigue resembles all the Philippines; fruitful nature is prodigal of her gifts, which are useless to the inhabitants, for want of government exerting itself to protect them from the avarice and ravage of the Moors, by whom they are continually harassed, and who even take the fishermen's boats in the road, which has no other protection than a wooden fort, guarded by twenty Christians of the country.

Game is plenty in this island, but fruit scarce; cocoas and indifferent plantains are all the

the inhabitants have endeavoured to procure.

Deer are in great numbers, also wild boars and hogs; buffalos, bullocks and horses, are so plenty, that they neither take care to keep them, nor of their breeding. The horses go where they like, and are no particular person's property; when they are wanted, the first is taken that offers, who is let free as soon as his business is performed.

The air of this island, from its uncultivated state and quantity of marshes, is every where unhealthy. It is supposed to contain many rich gold mines.

The Spaniards have many factories on the coast of the island of Mindanao, and maintain themselves there, by being continually at war with the numerous kings of the island, who never would acknowledge the Spanish government.

Sambouangue is the chief settlement of the Spaniards at Mindanao, and is situated on the southern coast of the island. According to our observations, it lies in an hundred and twenty degrees

degrees thirteen minutes longitude, and six degrees fifty-four minutes latitude; a considerable difference from the observation of Mr. Gentil, who has placed it in seven degrees twenty minutes latitude. It is probable he took this account from some bad Spanish maps.

The Spaniards have built a considerable citadel with bricks and stones, and in a state to defend the harbour. The inhabitants live within a palisade, one end of which joins the side of the citadel, and the other reaches to a small wooden fort, where there are fourteen pieces of cannon, and which commands the environs.

The king of Spain is at great expence in keeping this place, from which he derives no profit. This post was established to stop the incursions of the Moors of Yolo in the neighbouring islands; who, however, go as often as they formerly did to the road of Antigue and Manilla, where they not only cut away fishing boats; but sometimes vessels richly laden: they have even the audacity to insult the inhabitan-

ts by going up among them

and T

habitants of Sambouangue, making their descent out of the cannon's reach, and coming up to the palisade to harass them, and confine these poor creatures to their houses. Even the cultivation is performed under protection of the cannon, as some pieces are always carried into the field where they are at work.

The soil is fruitful, requiring little labour, and produces plentiful crops of rice. Bullocks are also in great plenty, and at a small price. The king put some into the large plain which borders on the settlement, where they have increased in such a manner, that they counted six thousand while I was passing. In the middle of the plain a wooden fort is built, which has eight pieces of cannon, to stop the progress of the Moors. In another plain, which is only separated from that already mentioned by a chain of mountains, the Spaniards have turned horses and buffaloes, who have increased prodigiously. These two plains are bordered by a scanty wood, full of deer and wild hogs. The rivers, as in the Isle of Luconia, carry down with them quantities of gold.

There

There is a particular kind of cacao at Simboninguie; the tree that produces it does not in the least differ from that with which we are acquainted; the fruit has also the same shape, but rather smaller: the green cacao is not of so tough a consistence as the common cacao, but is a skin analogous to the artichoke. It has also the same taste, and probably we found it more delicate, from not being able to make the composition. When the fruit is left on the tree, it then changes its nature, and becomes strong; in this state the taste is sour, and the cacao not good to eat. I carried six to the Isle of France, but without success.

In the southern part of Madagasc., there is a volcano which continually burns, and serves as a light house to ships which frequent those latitudes.

The Island of Yolo seems to be the point marked to distinguish the Philippines and the Moluccas.

The Dutch pretends it belongs to the Moluccas, and the Spaniards are so well per-

fuaed of its being one of the Phillipines, that they have several times attempted to settle there; but all their attempts, either by force or gentleness, have been unsuccessful, as the Yolais would never acknowledge them for their sovereigns.

The English had a factory on a small island to the east of Yolo, which they were obliged to relinquish.

The French might have settled there, as the king of the island, to shew his friendship to the nation, requested their flag. In my opinion they acted wisely in not accepting the offer, as they must, soon or late, have been the victims of the savage and warlike inhabitants.

Yolo is but a small island of thirty or forty leagues circumference; yet, by its situation, Yolo merits the attention of the European powers, on account of the spices that might be cultivated, and the commerce which might be carried on.

It produces many elephants; amber is also found, and they fish for pearls; the harbour

serves

serves as a retreat for the Moors, who roam over these seas as pirates, molesting the navigation of the Spaniards, and sometimes carry off with them the people of the colonies, in their incursions, whom they make slaves. The coast abounds with fish in plenty, for the daily subsistence of the inhabitants; the bird nests so much esteemed in China are also to be found at Yolo.

OF THE MOLUCCAS.

THE Moluccas form a considerable archipelago, which extends in length from Java as far as new Guinea. The country of the Papous, who are only colonies of the inhabitants of new Guinea, also depend on the Moluccas.

The Dutch have factories on every island which forms this archipelago; but at Banda

S 2 and

and Amboyna; they have forts and considerable settlements. To preserve the exclusive privilege of the Spice Islands to themselves, they have even burned them in the neighbouring islands: but these precautions are useless, as all the Moluccas, the country of the Pas-pous, and even new Guinea, does produce, and will produce them as long as they exist. When the French procured these productions, they did not obtain them at Bindia, nor at Amboyn, but at Guebi and at Moar.

The French took refuge in the port of Gueli, which without exception is the finest port in the Moluccas, and certainly must be unknown to the Dutch, as the French found it uninhabited. They settled there while the kings of Mal'a and of Patania, and the Sultan of Tidor, went to bring them the valuable trees which produce the spices; they carried them to the Isle of France, where they succeeded well (as may be seen in the chapter of the Isle of France) and also at Cayenne, where they were carried some little time after.

The

The inhabitants of the Islands of Molucca are in general very tawny; their skins appear like black washed with yellow. They have great resemblance of the Malays, from whom there is great appearance they derived their origin and they have the same language and manners, and are, like them, not very strong, but savage and cruel. It is probable the roughness of their manners may have proceeded from the wandering and solitary life they lead in the woods, to avoid the slavery of the Dutch. The islands they inhabit are fertile without their cultivation, as they live on sago, which grows spontaneously, and in great quantities, in every part of this archipelago.

The religion of the Moluccas is a corruption of Islamism.

The women and priests are alone clothed; the men only cover their head with a hat of different colours, made of leaves; all the rest of the body is naked: however, they have a

boot

small

small piece of linen drawn tight, for modesty's sake.

The women's dress is a long robe, or a kind of sacque without folds, and fastened before; they wear hats of an enormous size, of seven or eight feet in circumference; these hats are flat on the top, and loaded with ornaments of shells and mother of pearl; below, a circle of three inches high serves for the form, and to keep them on the head. The women never stir out, being always confined to the house.

The priests are dressed in long robes, like the women, but are known by their bonnets, which are pointed on the top.

Both sexes wear large rings of shells round their arms, something of the quality of China, which they fashion by rubbing them against a stone.

Their weapons are a bow, arrows, quiver, and shield. The bow is made of a fibrous, light, and elastic wood, and is adorned with rings made of rotin: the string is also of rotin, properly prepared. The arrows are an elastic reed

reed, light, and pointed with a very hard wood, jagged. Sometimes this point is made of the prickly fin of a large fish. The quiver is made of the bark of a tree, and the shield of a very hard black wood. They are covered with minute designs, in relief, made of small shells, very white. These shields are long, and narrower in the middle than at the ends.

Their boats are of a very ingenious and singular construction; they are from seventy to eighty feet long; the two ends raised so high that they are twenty feet above the water: the rudder is only a long oar, placed without, and supported on a scaffold. The body of the boat is a collection of planks, which are neither joined nor nailed, but simply put together, and fastened by ropes made of rattan. There are two horizontal wings, one on each side of the boat, which serve to keep her right in a high sea. Ten men sitting across these wings, give motion to the boat, with their paddles, and make her go with incredible swiftness. The art of the rowers consists

sists in striking equally, and, doubtless, this is the reason that while they are rowing, they are excited by songs, or the noise of a kind of tom-tom; the measure guiding the precision of their strokes.

The sails are made of several mats, of an oblong form, and put across the mast.

The Papous, who are such near neighbours of the Moluccas, as they inhabit the neighbouring islands of New Guinea, have neither their manners, nor the least resemblance, but have much greater analogy to, and are more like, the Coffees of Guinea, on the African-coast, which indeed has given the name of New Guinea to their country. They are little known, and as little resorted to. Their stature is tall, and robust, their skin of a shining black colour, but rough; their eyes large, the nose very flat, the mouth excessively wide, their lips, especially the upper lip, much swelled, and the hair frizzled, of a shining black. The character of these savages corresponds with their outward forms
they

they are fond of war, and are brave; but cruel to their enemies.

The Moluccas, like the Philippines, contain many volcanos; which, probably, are all outlets of the same habitation. That of Siao is the most considerable, and by its repeated eruptions covers all the neighbouring islands.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.





LIBRARY T III

INTRODUCTION

TO THE

JOURNEY

I MAY, perhaps, be accused of not having answered to the title of my work, if I did not mention my voyages.—The route of the Isle of France, the Coromandel Coast, and China, offer nothing curious ; and are so well known, that I should only repeat what many travellers have already described.

M. D' Apres has, upon this head, left us nothing to wish for.—I shall therefore, only describe my voyage to the Moluccas, taking my departure from Manilla, which is the most interesting period.

The

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

The perusal of a journal is of such an insupportable dryness, that I thought myself obliged to avoid it; and have only simply given Tables of the Courses, Winds, and Nautical Observations; referring the reader, for the historical part, to my voyage to New Guinea.

This journal will not only be useful to navigators, but to geographers, to rectify this part of the globe, so defective in the charts we now have.—I have corrected the situation of the islands from M. D'Apres's maps.

M. D'APRES'S
MAPS OF THE
ISLANDS OF
NEW GUINEA.

TABLE

TABLE

T A B L E
OF THE COURSE OF THE SHIPS,
L' ISLE DE FRANCE and LA NECESSAIRE;
Of the Winds and Nautic Observations, &c.

Sailed from the Manillas December 28th, 1771.

N. B. It is to be observed, that the Position of the Ships is at Noon, at which time the Observations have been taken.

Days of the month.	Winds.	Courses.	Longitude esteemed.	Latitude observed North.	REMARKS.
Dec. 28th.	N. N. E. N. E.	S. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. E. S. 15° . 30'. E.	$118^{\circ}. 12'$.	$14^{\circ}. 6'$. $13^{\circ}. 27'$.	Fresh breezes. Currents to the Southward. Saw the Island of Mindoro, to the S. 5° . E.
— 29th.	N. E.	E. 40° . S.	$118^{\circ}. 3'$.	$12^{\circ}. 48'$.	Took an observation: the middle of the Iles of the bank of Appo, to the S. 27° . W. By the observations and latitude, those Iles are marked 14° . too much to the Southward in M. D'Apres's charts.
— 30th.					The currents have carried us $8'$. to the Northward, and $5'$. to the Westward. Took an observation from
— 31st.	Variable from E. N. E. to S. E.	S. $15^{\circ}. 30'$ E.	$118^{\circ}. 39'$.	$12^{\circ}. 35'$.	

TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the month.	Winds.	Courses.	Longitude selected.	Latitude observed North.	REMARKS.
1772. Jan. 1st. — 2d.	S. E. Variable from S. W. to E. N. E.	S. 30° . $40'$. E. S. 25° . $3'$. E. E. 36° . $30'$. S.	$118^{\circ}. 41'$. $119^{\circ}.$	$12^{\circ}. 33'$. $11^{\circ}. 55'$.	From W. $29^{\circ}. 5'$. to $2^{\circ}. 41'$. W. The lines of Ambola from S. 31° . E. to S. 36° . E. By the observations and latitude, the point S. of Ambola, and that of Mindoro, is $14'$ too much to the Southward. Variation N. O. 1° . Took an observation at the-North point of the Isle of Panay, to the N. $29^{\circ}. 9'$. E. By latitude and observations, the Carabao Island must be behind 3 leagues to the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$. N.
— 3d.	Variable from N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$. N. to N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$. E.	E. $36^{\circ}. 30'$. S.	$119^{\circ}. 54'$.	$11^{\circ}. 24'$.	Unequal and variable winds.
— 4th.	Variable from S. E. to E. N. E.	S. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. E.	$119^{\circ}. 48'$.	$11^{\circ}. 14'$.	Fresh winds and clear sky. Came to an anchor in the road of Antigue, on the Isle of Panay, at 4 o'clock, in 25 fathom, muddy ground; the flag of the fort bearing to the E. a league. Sailed along the Isle of the Negres; the currents have carried us $10'$. to the Westward, and $8'$. to the Southward.
— 5th. — 6th & 7th. Staid at An-	N. N. E. N. N. W.	S. 10° . E. S. W.	$119^{\circ}. 50'$.	$11^{\circ}. 2'$. $10^{\circ}. 42'$.	Tigua till the 14th.
— 14th.	Variable from the E. N. E. to W. N. W.	S. 23° . W.	$119^{\circ}. 53'$.	$10^{\circ}. 29'$.	

TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the month.	Winds.	Courses.	Longitude esteemed.	Latitude observed North.	REMARKS.
Jan. 15th.	N. E.	S. $33^{\circ} 15'$ E.		$9^{\circ} 16'$.	Fresh winds and rain : the currents, on the wrong position of the Island have carried us $6'$ to the Westward ; the southern point must be $1^{\circ} 9' 8'$. Saw the Island Mindanao, from E. S. E. to S. S. W. currents to the W. Took an observation.
— 16th.	N. E.	S. 23° E. till sun-rise, & from sun-rise till noon the S. 31° . 45' W.		$8^{\circ} 32'$.	
— 17th.	N. E.	S. $18^{\circ} 30'$ W.		$7^{\circ} 13'$.	Bouton Lampo to the S. 2° E. the Hare's Ear to the S. 43° W. 4 leagues.
— 18th.	N. E.	S. $4^{\circ} 40'$ E.		$6^{\circ} 59'$.	Anchored at 8 o'clock at night in the port of Caldera, on the Island of Mindanao, in 46 fathoms, gravel and coral ground.
— 19th.	S. W.	S. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E.	$160^{\circ} 13'$.	$6^{\circ} 54'$.	Anchored at Samboangue, on the Island of Mindanao, at 10 o'clock in the afternoon, in 35 fathoms, grey sandy ground, mixed with coral. The tower of Samboangue remaining to E. N. E.
Stayd at Sam- boangue til the 9th of February.	W. S. W.	E. $6^{\circ} 20'$ S.	$120^{\circ} 44'$.	$6^{\circ} 45'$.	Puffed between the Islands of Libaco and Sacol. At 2 o'clock, after midnight, a tide run from the N. E. to the S. E.
— 10th.	N. W.	E. 28° S.	$121^{\circ} 9'$.	$6^{\circ} 21'$.	Much rain, thunder and lightning.

TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the month.	Winds.	Courses.	Longitude esteemed.	Latitude observed North.	REMARKS.
Feb. 11th.	Variable from N. E. to N. N. E.	E. 23°. S.		5°. 48'.	Rain.
— 12th.	Variable from E. S. E. to N. N. E.	E. 60°. 24'. S.	122°. 6'.	5°. 48'.	By observation and latitude, the point of the arrows on Mindanao must begin 5°. 49'. latitude N. the other Island must also be redefined.
— 13th.	S. W.	E. 14°. S.	122°. 52'.	5°. 24'.	
— 14th.	Variable from N. to N. E.	E. 14°. 20'. E.	123°. 16'.	3°. 57'.	
— 15th.	N. E.	S. 26°. 15'. E.	123°. 37'.	2°. 39'.	Rain and hail; currents to the Southward: passed the S. of Saringam, took an observation near the Islands of Rats to the N. 30°. E. also to the S. 22°. E. saw the Islands of Bonguis, ^{to the} the Southward 34°. E. also the volcano of Mindanao.
— 16th.	Variable from N. E. to N. N. W.	S. 36°. E.	124°. 21'.	1°. 38'.	Took an observation at sun rise, near the Island of Miao, from S. 16°. E. to S. 20°.
— 17th.	S. 15°. E.		124°. 46'.	38'.	Took an observation near the Island of Soucy, to the W. 27°. S. the Coast of Bazaar, from E. 9°.

TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the month,	Winds.	Courses.	Latitude observed North.	R E M A R K S.
			Longitude esteemed.	
Feb. 18th.	Variable from N. to N. N. W.	E. 21°. S.	126° 16'.	25°. dubious. S. to the E. 10°. S. Dayren island to the E. 18°. 30'. S. doubled Groot Tavali and Bachiam. Took an observation near the Island Cark-k to the S. 40°. E. Pulo Larcien to the E. 11°. S. 5 miles; the Isle of Garcia from S. 15°. W. to S. 20°. W. doubled the N. of Oby a Strait, which we have called the French Strait.
— 19th.	Variable from W. N. W. to N. N. W.	N. 41°. E.	126° 58'.	19°. By our observations Pulo Piffing must be in 1°. 23'. Took, at sun rise, an observation near Pulo Gagy, to the E. 10°. S. the Island of Gueby from the E. 33°. N. to N. 14°. W.
— 20th.	N: N. W.	W. 44°. S.	116° 48'.	25°. Misted the anchorage of the Isle of Gueby, not having kept close enough in shore. Anchored on the S. E. point of the anchorage of the Isle of Gueby in 20 fathoms ground, small rotten corals.
— 21st.	Variable from W. S. W. to N. W.	S. 30° 15'. W.	126° 31'.	38°.
— 22d.	N. W.	W. 25°. N.	126° 15'.	18°.
— 23d.	Variable from N. to N. W.	S. E. 10° S.	126° 21'.	11°.
				Came to an anchor in a beautiful canal, formed by the Island of Gueby; the Island Faox in 16 fathoms, sandy ground.

Feb.

TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the month.	Winds.	Courses.	R E M A R K S.	
			Longitude esteemed.	Latitude observed North.
Staid at Gueby till the second of March	N. N. W.	W. 18° S. W. 36° N.	13° 6'	Took an observation at sun-rise, near Pulo-Moar, from N. 19° E. to N. 30° 30' E. at 3 leagues distance.
— 2d.	Variable, from N. W. to N. N. W.			The point of Patanie from N. 3° E. to W. 37° N. Anchored at Pulo Moar, in 24 fathoms ground, coral, and rotten shells.
— 3d.				
— 4th.	Variable, from N. E. to N. W.	N. 58° 45'		
Staid at Pulo Moar till the 8th.	S. W.	E. 28° S. E. 19° S.	124° 2'	Anchored in the same canal, of the island of Gueby.
— 8th.	N.		Corrected.	The Longitude has been determined by the distance of the moon from the sun.
— 9th.				
Staid at Gueby till the 7th of April	N. E.	S. 23° W.	124° 21'	Run aground on a bank of coral, in going through the Western passage.
April			27°	

TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the Month.	Winds.	Courses.	Longitude esteemed.	R E M A R K S.	
				Latitude observed South.	
April 8th.	N. E.	S. 19° W.	123° 23'	1° 17'.	Took, at sunrise, an observation, near the island of Boaya, from E. C. S. to E. 4° S. distant 5 leagues; Pulo-Piftang from S. 10° W. to S. 13° W. Pulo-parceker to S. 3° W. Pu-o-carkek to S. 4° W. Saw several other f. all islands. By repeated observations, Pulo-Piftang must always be 1° 33'. Variation observed N. E. 1° 21'.
					Much rain, saw Ceram from S. E. to S. S. W.
— 9th.	Variable from N. E. to N.	S. 12° 45' W.	123° 27'.	1° 44'.	
— 10th.	Variable from W. to N. W.	S. 27° W.	123° 9'.	2° 8'.	Took an observation, near Abby-major, from W. 30° N. to W. 38° N.
— 11th.	Variable from W. 19° S.	W. 19° S.	122° 35'.	2° 19'.	Saw the Island of Bowra to the S. 43° N.
— 12th.	N. W. to W. S. W.	W. 23° 15' S.	122° 41'.	2° 34'.	Took an observation, near the Island of Kelam, from S. 6° E. to S. 10° W.—the Island of Manipato to the S. 5° W.—the Island Bowra from S. 28° W. to S. 37° W.
— 13th.	N. W.	W.	121° 43'.	2° 34'.	A storm of rain, without wind.
— 14th.	N. W. almost calm.	W. 25° 20' S.	121° 41'.	2° 49'.	Took an observation near the Islands of Xulla from W. 5° N. to W. 42° N., variation observed N. E. 1° 30'.

TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the Month.	Winds.	Courses.	Longitude esteemed.	Latitude observed South.	REMARKS.	
April 15th.	Variable from N. to W.	S. 27° 30' W.	121° 29'.	3° 35'.		
— 16th.	N. W.	S. 9° 45' E.	121° 34'.	4° 5'.	Saw the Island of Amblim, to the E. 26° N. which according to our observations determines its latitude in 3°. 54' S. and the most Southern point of Bowra, its latitude 3°. 55'.	
— 17th.	N. W.	S. 32° 15' E.	122°.	4° 50'.	Variation observed N. E. 1° 30'. Observed an eclipse of the moon; at 11 o'clock, 58'. The moon was entirely eclipsed, but at 1 o'clock 25' seemed to decrease, and was clear at 2 o'clock 15'.	
— 18th.	N. W.	S. 9° E.	122° 12'.	6° 11'.		
— 19th.	N. W.	S. 3° 40' W.	122° 8'.	6° 51'.	Saw several small islands to the W. S. W.	
— 20th.	W. N. W.	W. 35° 45' S.	122° 42'.	7° 10'.	Rainy Weather.	
— 21st.	Variable from W. N. W. to W. S. W.	N. 40° 30' W.	121° 41'.	6° 13'.	Thunder and Lightning, with Rain.	
— 22d.	W. S. W.	N. 44° W.	121° 37'.	5° 42'.	Calm.	
— 23d.	Variable from W. S. W. to S. S. W.	S. 25° W.	121° 29'.	6° 3'.	Saw fourteen islands, which I believe were the islands of Campin Hoory.	
— 24th.	S. S. E.	W. 44° S.	120° 56'.	6° 39'.	Made an observation of longitude by the distance of the sun from the moon, the solution of which has	

April

TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the Month.	Winds.	Courses.	Longitude esteemed.	Latitude observed South.	REMARKS.
April 25th.	S. E.	S. 27° W.	124° 51' Corrected.	7° 22'.	been 125°. 30'. to the Eastward of the Royal Observatory Paris; is a difference of 4°. 34'. which I shall correct in my route: saw the Isle of the Volcano to the W. 70°. 30'. 6 miles distance. Thus according to our observations, the middle of the volcano is in 6°. 42', meridional latitude, and 124° 59'. longitude.
— 26th.	Variable from S. E. to S. S. W.	W. 4° S.	124° 26'.	7° 41'.	Took an observation near the Eastern point of the Island of the Table to S. 33° W. Variation observed N. E. 2° 30'.
C 2					Currents to the Westward.
— 27th.	Variable from S. E. to E. S. E.	S. 34° W.	124° 3'.	8° 18'.	Took an observation near the Island of Wester from E. 5° N. to S. 21° 30' E. Pulo Baby from S. 10° 30' E. to S. 7° E. the Island of Kefier from S. 10° W. to S. 25° W. the Island Omby from W. 27°. S. to W. 4° S.
— 28th.	S. E.	W. 39° S.	123° 47'.	8° 23'.	Took an observation near Tumor from E. 14° S. to S. 38° W.
— 29th.	S. W.	W. 33° 30' S.	123° 31'.	8° 21'.	Almost calm.
— 30th.	S. S.	W. 28° 20' S.	122° 54'.	8° 59'.	Took an observation near the Island of Pantare to N. 10° E. Yonoff to the S. 5° E. Pulo Baio

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TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the Month.	Winds.	Courses.	Longitude esteemed.	Latitude observed South.	R. E. M. A. R. K. S.
May 1st.	Variable.	S. 41° W.	121° 12'.	9° 18'.	To S. 34° N. 1° 14' from 32° N. to W. 45° N currents to the S. and W. Kept the most advantageous tacks to get out of the strait.
— ad.	S. E.	S. 45° W.	120° 11'.	10° 43'.	Variation observed N. E. 15'.
3d.	E.	W. 45 S. W.	117° 58'.	12° 9'.	All the strait must undergo a considerable correction
4th.	E.	W. 45 S. W.	115° 58'.	12° 40'.	Variation observed N. E. 55' arrive.
5th.	E.	W. 45 S. W.	114° 10'.	13° 5'.	Variation observed N. W. 1° 40' arrive.
6th.	E.	W. 45 S. W.	112° 41'.	13° 40'.	1° 36' arrive.
7th.	Variable from the E. to S.	W. 45 S. W.	111° 3'.	14° 8'.	
8th.	S. E.	W. 45 S. W. 3°	108° 48'.	14° 33'.	N. W. 1° effected.
9th.	Variable from S. E. to E.	W. 45 S. W. 30°	107° 8'.	14° 48'.	2° 45' arrive.
10th.	S. E.	W. 45 S. W. 2°	105° 2'.	15° 4'.	3°. ocale.
11th.	E. S. E.	45 W.	102° 47'.	15° 35'.	3°. 56' arrive.

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SONNERAT'S VOYAGES.

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TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the Month.	Winds.	Courses.	Longitude observed estimated.	R E M A R K S.	
				Latitude observed South.	2°. 55'. ocale.
May 12th.	E. S. E.	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 2° W.	100° 32'.	15° 56'.	
— 13th.	S. E.	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 2° 15° W.	98° 33'.	16° 14'.	
— 14th.	S. E.	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 1° 45° W.	96° 23'.	16° 34'.	
— 15th.	S. E.	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 1° 45° W.	94° 52'.	16° 44'.	
— 16th.	S. S. E. Variable.	W. 1° S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 1° 30° W.	93° 47'.	16° 48'.	Rainy Weather.
— 17th.	S. E.	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 1° W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 2°	91° 36'.	16° 58'.	
— 18th.	S. E.	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 2° 15° W.	89° 27'.	17° 16'.	
— 19th.	S. E.	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 1° 45° W.	86° 55'.	17° 28'.	
— 20th.	S. E. Variable.	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 1° 45° W.	84° 23'.	17° 48'.	
— 21st.	Variable from E. to E. S.	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. 4° S. E.	81° 44'.	18° 29'.	Variation effected at the foot of the Centaura 4°. 10°.—3°. 20'. dubious.
— 22d.	E.	W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W.	79° 23'.	19° 1'.	Variation effected N. W. 5°.—3°. 36'. ocale.

May

TABLE OF THE COURSES, WINDS, &c.

Days of the Month,	Winds.	Courses.	REMARKS.		
			Latitude observed South.	Longitude elec. med.	
May 23d.	E.	W. 5° S. 15'	19° 8'	77° 46'	Variation 4°. 45'. ocale—5°. 23'. ortive.
24th.	E. S. E.	W. 4° 39' S.	19° 22'	76° 6'	— 5°. 32'. ocale—5°. 20'. ortive.
25th.	E. E.	W. 4° 30' S.	19° 32'	75° 5'	
26th.	E.	W. 4° S.	19° 27'	74° 12'	
27th.	E.	W. 1° 32' S.	19° 29'	72° 9'	Variation steer'd N. W. 7°.
28th.	E. N. E.	W. 3° 30' S.	19° 56'	70° 12'	Rainy Weather.
29th.	Variable.	W. 1° 45' N.	19° 49'	68° 43'	
30th.	N. N. E.	Variable from W. 30° S.	20° 3'	67° 50'	Variation 8°. 49'. ortive.
31st.	S. E. E.	W. 3° 30' S.	19° 57'	65° 40'	— 9°. 30'. esteemed
June 1st.	S. E.	W. 5° S.	19° 56'	58° 3'	Look an observation at noon near the Island of Rodriguez from N. 37°. W. to N. 46°. W.—By observation we were in Longitude 61°. which puts me more to the West, as my estimation of 4°. 21'. Variation N. W. 11°. 20'.
— 2d.	S. E.	W. 4 1/2 S. W. 30° S.	20°	55° 34'	Took an observation near the Island of Ronde, from W. 37°. N. W. 40° N. The Island of Serpents to the N. 4°. 30°. W. The most Southern lands of the Island of France to W. 24°. S.



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THE END.

THE CHINESE IN AMERICA

THE ESKIMOS - THE INUIT

The Eskimos, or Inuit, are the native people of the Arctic region. They have lived there for thousands of years, adapting themselves to the cold environment. The word "Eskimo" means "eater of raw meat" in the language of the Iñupiat people. The Inuit are known for their unique way of life, which includes hunting seals, walruses, and other animals for food and clothing. They also practice whaling and seal hunting. The Inuit have a rich oral tradition, passed down through generations, which includes stories, songs, and dances. They are skilled hunters and trappers, and have a deep respect for the natural world. The Inuit are a small, but important part of the Arctic ecosystem.



五桂王，五桂王

